FRIDAY
May 30, 2025

BENGALURU
CITY EDITION
24 Pages ₹ 6.00

THE HINDU

www.thehindu.com

INDIA'S NATIONAL NEWSPAPER SINCE 1878

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RNI No. KARENG/1970/49945

Vol. 56 • No. 128

Printed at » Chennai » Coimbatore » Bengaluru » Hyderabad » Madurai » Noida » Visakhapatnam » Thiruvananthapuram » Kochi » Vijayawada » Mangaluru » Tiruchirapalli » Kolkata » Hubballi » Mohali » Malappuram » Mumbai » Lucknow » Cuttack » Patna

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Palace Grounds: SC suspends transfer of TDRs

NEW DELHI
The Supreme Court on Thursday froze the implementation of its May 22 order directing Karnataka to release TDR certificates of over ₹3,000 crore for 15 acres and 17.5 guntas of Bangalore Palace Grounds to the erstwhile Mysuru royal family.
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Thug Life release on hold

BENGALURU
The Karnataka Film Chamber of Commerce has has said it will halt the release of Kamal Haasan's movie *Thug Life* in Karnataka if he does not apologise in two days for his remark on Kannada. » Page 2

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Major setback for Trump as U.S. court blocks tariffs

The Court of International Trade says the IEEPA does not confer unbounded authority on the U.S. President to impose tariffs; White House appeals against what it called a 'blatantly wrong' ruling

Agence France-Presse
WASHINGTON

A U.S. federal court has blocked most of President Donald Trump's sweeping tariffs, boosting markets on Thursday with a ruling that could derail his trade strategy.

The three-judge Court of International Trade, in two separate cases, ruled on Wednesday that Mr. Trump had overstepped his authority, and barred most of the import duties announced since he took office in January, including the 'Liberation Day' tariffs announced on April 2.

The judges said the cases rested on whether the International Emergency Economic Powers Act of 1977 (IEEPA) delegate such powers to the President "in the form of authority to impose unlimited tariffs on goods from nearly every country in the world". "The court does not read IEEPA to confer such unbounded authority and sets aside the challenged tariffs imposed thereunder," the ruling said.

Attorneys for the Trump administration promptly filed an appeal against the ruling, which gave the White House 10 days to complete the bureaucratic process of halting the tariffs. The White House called the ruling "blatantly wrong," expressing confidence that the decision would be overturned.

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'Govt. gauging impact of U.S. court verdict'

NEW DELHI
The Centre is assessing the potential impact of the U.S. court's ruling that blocked the sweeping tariffs imposed by President Donald Trump, according to government sources. They added that talks for India-U.S. free trade agreement were "progressing well". » PAGE 13

India hopes U.S. will clear visas on merit

Suhasini Haidar
NEW DELHI

Issuing visas is a sovereign topic for the U.S. government, the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) said on Thursday, but added that the government hopes that the process will be completed in time for Indian students to join the U.S. universities they have gained admission to this year.

This comes amidst reports that the U.S. missions in India and around the world have temporarily paused scheduling new visa appointments as they await instructions from the U.S. State Department on how to enhance their screening of applicants' social media profiles.

MEA spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal said that the welfare of students was of "utmost priority".

"We have seen reports suggesting the U.S. government updated guidance regarding Student and Exchange Visitor visa applicants," Mr. Jaiswal said. "While we note that issuance of visa is a sovereign function, we hope that the application of Indian students will be considered on merit and they will be able to join their academic programmes on time," he added.

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U.S. set to revoke visas of Chinese students: Rubio

WASHINGTON
U.S. Secretary of State Marco Rubio said on Wednesday that the Trump administration will begin revoking visas of some Chinese students, including those studying in "critical fields". The action comes amid the intensifying scrutiny of ties between U.S. higher education and China. » PAGE 20

HC bins govt. decision to withdraw 43 criminal cases

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Observing that "it is the worst kind of abuse of powers if there is a political consideration in withdrawal of criminal cases under Section 321 of the Code of Criminal Procedure (Cr. PC)," the High Court of Karnataka on Thursday set aside a Government Order (GO) of October 15, 2024, to withdraw 43 criminal cases, including the 2022 case of Hubballi riots, in which a mob attacked and assaulted police personnel.

A Division Bench, comprising Chief Justice N.V. Anjaria and Justice K.V. Aravind, delivered the judgment while allowing a PIL petition filed by Girish Bharadwaj, a city-based advocate.

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The rise and rise of the young Indian cricketers

Teenage stars Suryavanshi, Mhatre took the IPL by storm with their exploits; success of home-grown batters an indication of the country's batting riches; impressive performances by Prasidh and Sai Kishore, a heartening feature

R. Kaushik

R.V. MOORTHY & K. MURALI KUMAR

In an era long gone by, Afghanistan's left-arm wrist-spinner Noor Ahmad would have walked away with the Purple Cap for being the highest wicket-taker at the conclusion of the league phase of the Indian Premier League. Noor might still do so - he leads this year's race with 24 wickets despite his team, Chennai Super Kings, propping up the table for the first time in the tournament's history - but if Prasidh Krishna continues his red-hot form, he will get at least one opportunity to build on his tally of 23 wickets when Gujarat Titans take on Mumbai Indians in Friday's Eliminator in Mullanpur.

The IPL is essentially by the Indians and for the Indians - yes, yes, it does include top players from most of the rest of the world - and never has that been more apparent than in Season 18, when Indian stars established and emerging have taken the tournament by storm. There are notable exceptions, as there are bound to be - Noor, for one, alongside Trent Boult and Josh Hazlewood among the bowlers -- and Mitch Marsh, Jos Buttler and Nicholas Pooran when it comes to the batters. But homegrown talent has held massive sway, reiterating that the future of Indian T20 cricket, at the very least, is in safe, competent, young hands.

The phenoms

No one is younger, of course, than the kid from Samastipur in Bihar who very few knew about two months back. Vaibhav Suryavanshi had made his Ranji Trophy debut at 13 and already scored a century for India Under-19 against Australia Under-19 in a four-day 'Test' last year, but it was the grand stage that the IPL is that propelled him into international limelight. At 14 years and 32 days, he became the youngest batter to score a century in senior T20 cricket; his 35-ball ton for Rajasthan Royals against Gujarat Titans is the fastest by an Indian. He might have begun the tournament as a starry-eyed teenager who must have gobbled at a price tag of ₹1.1 crore, but he ends it a marked lad, someone of whom great things are already being expected and who is, unfairly, drawing comparison with India's most famous teen phenom, a certain Sachin Tendulkar.

Suryavanshi and his India Under-19 captain Ayush Mhatre, who sparkled after belatedly being blooded by CSK, are already spreading waves of awe and fear within the junior fraternity - outside it, too, but it's the Under-19 opponents who are most likely to feel the brunt of their fury in the immediate future. The Indian colts travel to England next month for five 50-over games and two four-day fixtures. Perhaps echoing the sentiments of the rest of the cricket world, former New Zealand captain and CSK coach Stephen Fleming admitted he worried 'a little bit about the Under-19 oppositions that will come up against two pretty handy openers when the World Cup comes around.' "It's amazing how much talent they have, how composed they are," Fleming, who himself was only 19 when he first played for his country, crowed.

The swashbuckling 14-year-old left-hander and the more orthodox 17-year-old right-hander from Mumbai headlined a rash of extraordinary but lesser-known talent that took the league stage of the tournament by storm with the bat. Priyansh Arya might appear of a different vintage from the two teenagers - he is only 24 but how do you compete with 14 and 17 for eyeballs? - but he has had a memorable first season. Bought by Punjab Kings for ₹3.8 crore, he has more than justified the price tag and the expectations with 424 runs at the whopping strike-rate of 183.6, showing that marrying consistency with naked aggression comes reasonably easy to him. He announced himself early in the tournament with a hundred and hasn't disappointed since; like his equally fearsome opening partner Prabhsimran Singh (499 runs), he will have at least two more chances to add to that tally, given that the Kings have made it to the playoffs (as the top-ranked team, no less) for the first time since 2014.

Racking it up

Of the 10 batters who racked up more than 500 runs in the league phase are seven Indians, none of whom can be called a newcomer by any stretch of imagination. B. Sai Sudharsan, who leads the race for the Orange Cap with 679 runs, 30 more than Gujarat Titans opening partner and new India Test skipper Shubman Gill, is perhaps the 'newest comer' of this bunch. The other

K.V.S. GIRI & EMMANUAL YOGINI

five - Suryakumar Yadav, Virat Kohli (who has topped 600 runs for a third season on the bounce), Yashasvi Jaiswal, K.L. Rahul and Shreyas Iyer - have all been there and done that. Indians have accounted for seven of the nine hundreds this far (Mitchell Marsh and Heinrich Klaasen are the exceptions). Outside of this '500 club' and those mentioned previously, Abhishek Sharma has continued on his merry way, Ishan Kishan has sets hearts aflutter in Hyderabad and who can forget Jitesh Sharma's extraordinary onslaught on Tuesday night that muscled Royal Challengers Bengaluru past Rishabh Pant's Lucknow Super Giants and to the second place at the end of the league skirmishes?

Openers Sai Sudharsan and Gill, alongside former England skipper Buttler who will miss the playoffs due to international commitments, accounted for the bulk of Gujarat's runs this season. The left-handed Sai Sudharsan and his equally classy right-hander mirror-image captain have together put on 909 runs as an opening pair, including an unseparated 205 against Delhi Capitals in a most surreal run-chase. A little while back, in the immediacy of Rohit Sharma and Kohli's retirement from T20Is, it seemed as if Gill and Jaiswal would be the long-term 20-over openers for the country, an opinion that gathered pace when they put on 67 and 156 (unbroken) in successive outings in Zimbabwe last July. Then, Abhishek and Sanju Samson threatened to queer the pitch with Gill and Jaiswal away on Test duty. Now, a new pair is in town, making it impossible to overlook its exploits. India seem spoiled for batting choices. See how Tilak Varma, who made successive centuries whilst batting at No. 3 in South Africa last December, hasn't even figured in this piece till now?

These are the obvious success stories but there are others who don't have the same inflated numbers and yet have made a grand impact - men like Dhruv Jurel, Ayush Badoni, Ashutosh Sharma, Shashank Singh, even Vipraj Nigam and Riyan Parag, who smashed six sixes in as many deliveries (spread over two overs) in a losing cause. Several of them have been around for a while and while Jurel and Parag are already internationals, the rest know that if they aspire to don the India Blue, they still have plenty of work ahead of them. What a luxury for T20 captain Suryakumar, head coach Gautam Gambhir and selection panel chief Ajit Agarkar to be able to dip into an overflowing pool of riches that is clearly the envy of the rest of the world.

If the batters have hogged the space till now, put it down to cricket being a batter's game. But India's bowling group hasn't been too shabby either. Of the 17 bowlers who had at least 15 wickets after the 70-match first phase, only five are non-Indians. There is a nice blend of the proven and the promising, of pacers and spinners, of left-armers and right-armers, of the orthodox and the unconventional among the dozen Indians in that grouping. There is Jasprit Bumrah - of course there will be Jasprit Bumrah, even if he missed the first four matches - and there are the usual suspects, Arshdeep Singh and Varun Chakaravarthy and Harshal Patel and Kuldeep Yadav but most heartening must be the form shown by Prasidh and the spunk revealed by R. Sai Kishore, the curly-mopped other left-handed 'Sai' from Chennai who led the State side in the Ranji Trophy last season.

Prasidh has been terrific to watch all season, making use of his bounce and his recent burst of confidence and feel-good to produce wicket-taking deliveries with exceptional consistency. He is among the tallest fast bowlers in India currently and is beginning to make excellent use of that feature, hitting the lengths that make it impossible for batters to get him away. His wickets have come at one every 14.34 deliveries but that's not only because batters have tried to go after him. He hasn't 'bought' his wickets, if you like, as an economy of 7.90 runs an over will testify. Having impressed on his Test comeback after 12 months in Sydney in January, it will be a huge surprise if he doesn't line up alongside Bumrah at Headingley in three weeks' time when the first Test gets underway. This isn't a case of the IPL fast-tracking a Test career, it is just that Prasidh has reiterated that even in 20-over cricket, traditional values will still hold a bowler in grand stead.

Sai Kishore tapered off a little after a glorious start but like Prasidh, he is also a smart and orthodox cookie but hardly unidimensional. He has been on the selectors' radar for a while and with Ravindra Jadeja in the autumn of his career, should fancy his chances across formats though the re-emergence of Krunal Pandya, who has 15 wickets to Sai Kishore's 17 but is handier with the bat, might dictate otherwise, at least in the 20-over game. To many, the IPL is an opportunity to make a very good livelihood out of cricket while reconciling to the knowledge that they might not seriously tickle the national selectors' mind space. To others like Sai Kishore, the IPL is only a springboard to greater heights, stemming from a realistic assessment of one's abilities and aspirations.

As the tournament hurtles towards its business end, there will be grandstand performances, for sure, but it will take something special to overshadow the league riches. Now, that's something to look forward to, right?

THE GIST

- Of the 10 batters who racked up more than 500 runs in the league phase are seven Indians, none of whom can be called a newcomer by any stretch of imagination
- Suryavanshi might have begun the tournament as a starry-eyed teenager who must have gobbled at a price tag of ₹1.1 crore, but he ends it a marked lad, someone of whom great things are already being expected
- Prasidh has been terrific to watch all season, making use of his bounce and his recent burst of confidence and feel-good to produce wicket-taking deliveries with exceptional consistency

Palace Grounds case: Supreme Court suspends use/transfer of TDRs

Apcx court also orders that the review petition filed by the Karnataka government against the May 22 order to be posted for hearing in the week commencing July 21

Krishnadas Rajagopal
NEW DELHI

Fifteen acres and 17.5 guntas of Bangalore Palace Grounds were acquired for widening Ballari and Jayamahal roads. SUDHAKARA JAIN

The Supreme Court on Thursday froze the implementation of its May 22 order directing the State of Karnataka to release Transferable Development Rights (TDR) certificates of over ₹3,000 crore for 15 acres and 17.5 guntas of Bangalore Palace Grounds, acquired for widening the Ballari and Jayamahal roads, to the legal heirs of the erstwhile Mysuru royal family.

A Special Bench of three judges headed by Justice Surya Kant directed that the TDR certificates must continue to remain in the Supreme Court Registry.

When informed that the certificates had already been handed over to the claimants, the top court took the precaution of adding that TDRs, if any had been handed over, must not be transferred to third parties or utilised in any manner by the heirs.

The court ordered the review petition filed by the State against the May 22 order to be posted for hearing in the week commencing July 21.

"If the review petition is declined, the interim directions shall continue in force for four weeks from the date of passing such order," the Bench directed.

It posted the main appeal in the Bangalore Palace Grounds case for hearing on August 18.

On May 27, a Division Bench of Justices Kant and Dipankar Datta had referred the application made by the State of Karnataka against the May 22 order to the Chief Justice of India for the formation of a three-judge Bench to examine the issue.

Senior advocate Mukul Rohatgi and advocate T. Harish Kumar, for the legal heirs, had called the application of the State a sheer abuse of the law.

But Kapil Sibal asked how TDRs worth ₹3,011.66 crore could be released for land measuring just over 15 acres when the main appeals challenging the acquisition of the larger extent of land measuring 472 acres under the Bangalore Palace (Acquisition and Transfer) Act, 1996 were still pending in the Supreme Court.

He had queried whether a direction could be passed to the State in parallel contempt proceedings to shell out nearly ₹3,011.66 crore worth of valuable TDRs for the land when the Bangalore Palace (Acquisition and Transfer) Act, 1996 had fixed an amount of ₹11 crore as compensation for the entire extent of 472 acres. The lawyer had argued that the top court, in its May 22 order, had erred in applying a procedure for payment of compensation under Section 14B of the Karnataka Town and Country Planning Act, 1961.

The senior advocate had questioned if a provision introduced into the KTCP Act in 2004 could retrospectively be applied to set aside an acquisition dating back to 1996.

KFCC to halt release of *Thug Life* in Karnataka if actor doesn't apologise

Vivek M.V.
BENGALURU

Members of the Karnataka Rakshana Vedike staging a protest against actor Kamal Haasan in Bengaluru on Thursday. PTI

The Karnataka Film Chamber of Commerce (KFCC) has demanded an apology from veteran actor Kamal Haasan for his controversial remarks on Kannada. The KFCC has said that it will halt the release of Mr. Haasan's movie *Thug Life* in Karnataka if the actor doesn't apologise in two days. Directed by Mani Ratnam, *Thug Life* is set to hit cinemas worldwide on June 5.

Talking about the row, M. Narasimhalu, KFCC chairman, told *The Hindu:* "It's no longer about a film, but about an entire State."

During the audio launch of *Thug Life* in Chennai on May 24, Mr. Haasan made a remark that "Tamil gave birth to Kannada". The actor's statement spurred a row, with people from Karnataka, including Kannada groups and the BJP, criticising him for hurting their sentiments.

On Thursday, the KFCC held a meeting with members of the Exhibitors' Association of Karnataka and Distributors' Association of Karnataka to discuss the issue.

"The KFCC stands by the sentiments of the people of Karnataka. Mr. Haasan has to apologise in the next two days for a smooth release of *Thug Life* in Karnataka. The decision was taken with the backing of distributors and exhibitors along with former presidents of KFCC."

Bengaluru is a significant market for big-star Tamil movies. Distributors face the threat of a huge loss in case the release of *Thug Life* is delayed in Karnataka. "The distributors are seeking the help of the South Indian Film Chamber of Commerce to obtain an apology from Mr. Haasan. As of now, we have directed theatre owners and distributors to refrain from taking the film yet," said Mr. Narasimhalu

In 2018, distributors faced the heat when the release of *Kaala* was banned in Karnataka following the controversial remarks of superstar Rajinikanth on the Cauvery issue.

After buying the film for a whopping rate, distributors endured a huge loss after the film missed its release on the opening day in Karnataka.

Mr. Rajinikanth sparked a controversy when he asked then Karnataka Chief Minister H.D. Kumaraswamy to release Tamil Nadu's share of water as mandated by the Supreme Court. "If the Cauvery Management Board isn't formed soon, then the Centre will face the wrath of Tamil Nadu," the superstar had said. *Kaala* eventually released a day later in Karnataka.

Mr. Narasimhalu also recalled *Baahubali 2* being the other big film that faced an issue in Karnataka before its release in 2021. Kannada groups threatened to ban the highly-anticipated sequel owing to actor Sathyaraj's "anti-Kannada" comments in relation to the Cauvery row. All decks were cleared for the movie's release in Karnataka after the actor and the director, S.S. Rajamouli, addressed the issue and requested for the release.

Dance instructor arrested under POCSO Act

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Kadugodi police have arrested a 32-year-old dance instructor on the charge of sexually harassing a minor girl on the pretext of dropping her home on May 24.

The accused, Bharathi Kannan, was arrested under the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act based on a complaint filed by the parents of the victim, and remanded in judicial custody.

The victim, aged 17, was returning home from class when the accused allegedly stopped her, introduced himself as a dance teacher, and offered to provide information about dance classes.

He convinced the girl to get into the car and drove to a secluded area where he allegedly sexually harassed her.

He dropped her off at the same spot where he had picked her.

The victim reached home and narrated the ordeal to her parents, who filed the complaint at the police station.

CM sets dept. target of 75% results in SSLC exam without grace marks

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah has set a target for the Department of School Education and Literacy (DSEL) to achieve 75% results in SSLC exam without awarding grace marks to students.

At the reopening ceremony at Karnataka Public School (KPS), Adugodi, on Thursday organised by DSEL, the Chief Minister once again expressed his displeasure over the department awarding grace marks during the 2024 SSLC results.

During his speech, Mr. Siddaramaiah said the SSLC 2024 results were increased by giving 20% grace marks, while Minister for School Education and Literacy Madhu Bangarappa told him the grace marks awarded was 10%, "I know very well that the grace marks awarded last year was 20%. To know the real capacity of the students, we should stop giving such marks."

He said in the SSLC 2026 exam, the total number of students scoring 100% in all subjects should reach one lakh.

Sharing details about the facilities provided at government schools and assuring of improving the quality to be on a par with private ones, Mr. Siddaramaiah requested the parents to enroll their wards to government-run schools.

Stressing on the importance of the mother tongue and regional language, he said: "Knowledge and language are not related and we cannot say that those who studied at government schools are not intelligent. I am an example of a government school product; today I am the Chief Minister for the second time."

Encroachments hindering rainwater flow will be removed under Disaster Act, says DKS

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Deputy Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar visiting rain-hit areas around Manyata Tech Park on Thursday. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

In the wake of severe flooding triggered by relentless rain at Manyata Tech Park, a vital IT hub, Deputy Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar conducted an on-site inspection of the areas surrounding it on Thursday, and said that he has instructed officials to clear all encroachments under the Disaster Management Act to ensure smooth flow of rainwater.

Speaking to reporters after inspecting storm-water drains at the tech park, he said: "Officials have been instructed to clear all buildings which obstruct the smooth flow of rainwater in the city. Action will be taken under the Disaster Management Act."

"The Chief Minister and I have already visited the rain-affected areas. This is an important junction and any issues here result in problems in other areas. Some people have brought a stay from the court to stop the clearing of encroachments and our officials are also not cooperating. Hence, we have asked officials to clear encroachments under the Disaster Management Act," he added.

"We are not keen on taking away anyone's property. I am visiting the problem spots myself to verify. Everyone has agreed to allow the work to continue. But it is important to find a permanent solution," he said.

"We do not want to demolish any random building but it is important to ensure that rainwater flows smoothly without causing floods. We cannot allow Bengaluru's reputation to go do down the drain. We will compensate the building owners if there are technical issues, but we want the issues to be sorted out. We have given complete authority to the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike Commissioner and the secretary to take necessary action," he said.

Heat shelter design for the vulnerable takes centre stage in exhibition

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Visitors at the Sweat & Concrete 2025, an exhibition aimed at highlighting the realities of communities most affected by the rising heat stress. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

A working prototype of 'Neralu heat shelter' – a roadside shelter designed keeping in mind outdoor workers – was unveiled at Sweat & Concrete 2025, an exhibition aimed to highlight the lived realities of communities most affected by the rising heat stress.

The light, collapsible, and easily scalable shelter, conceptualised by architects and urban planners Ankrtiya Diggavi and Sagar Kandal, was the winning entry in a heat shelter design contest conducted by Ashoka Trust for Research in Ecology & the Environment (ATREE). Designed for informal workers, such as pourakarmikas, haulers, waste pickers, street vendors, gig workers and coolies, the shelter has been prototyped for the first time for the exhibition.

Scalable model

"We wanted to do a shelter design that is scalable across India. That's how we thought of a chassis and frame system," said Mr. Kandal.

The shelter, which consists of a metal frame, canopy, bench, and curtain, has been designed in such a way that it can be hinged onto a compound wall without touching the ground. This way it doesn't encroach the space on the footpaths, the architects pointed out. The curtain made of jute bags not only insulates it from heat, but also doubles up as a fan.

"A lot of industrial equipment go to waste. A thought behind designing the shelter with such material was whether we could salvage them and directly use them thus bypassing the recycling process which in itself is energy consuming," said Mr. Kandal.

Mr. Diggavi added to it: "We designed it in such a way that it does not touch the ground, folds up onto itself, and we are proposing that a private compound wall owner can lend his wall for this to be set up. This way it does not interfere with public space and we are nudging even citizens to take the ownership and onus of providing these things to the vulnerable."

Noting that the shelter would cost around ₹20,000, the architects hope that government officials would come on board to scale the model.

The two-day exhibition, organised by People First Cities, an initiative by social movement incubator Purpose, also features the runner-up designs from the competition and panel discussions that include voices from the vulnerable communities.

"The focus is on thinking about how cities can be designed in a more participatory, inclusive manner from the bottom up," said Kanishk Kabiraj from People First Cities.

"In the garden city of Bengaluru, heat is often a blind spot. But it's not going to stay the same way. Last year was the hottest year on record globally and heat impacts different people differently. Planning and decision-making need to include communities who are the most impacted by the rapid expansion of the city," he added.

Sonali Bhasin from People First Cities noted that heat action plans in Indian cities often lack vulnerability assessment and action policies that impact informal sector workers. "We wanted to bring that to the attention of regular citizens as well as decision makers of Bengaluru and try for a more solution-oriented way," she said.

Admission to the exhibition is free and open to the public till May 30 at Sabha Space on Kamraj Road.

SMVIT celebrates college day

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Sir M. Visvesvaraya Institute of Technology (SMVIT), Bengaluru, marked its annual college day, '*Sambhrama 2025*,' on May 24, with a celebration of academic and cultural excellence.

Ananda C.M., programme director for civil aircrafts and chief scientist at the National Aerospace Laboratories (NAL), Bengaluru, was present at the event as chief guest. Addressing the gathering, Mr. Ananda encouraged students to think ambitiously, adopt technological advancements, and contribute to the legacy of their institution. He highlighted the value of goal setting, confidence, and perseverance.

He stressed the importance of sound decision-making, leadership, and sustained efforts.

Timings
BENGALURU

FRIDAY, MAY. 30	
RISE 05:53	SET 18:42
RISE 08:53	SET 22:13
SATURDAY, MAY. 31	
RISE 05:53	SET 18:42
RISE 09:54	SET 23:02
SUNDAY, JUN. 01	
RISE 05:53	SET 18:43
RISE 10:50	SET 23:46

Bengaluru Weather	max	min
Tumakuru	30	24
Mysuru	28	20
Bengaluru	26	21

Bengaluru Today
29°C Morning will be pleasant. Day will be slight warm Spell of light rain and thundershower may occur.

Bengaluru Tomorrow
30°C The weather will be mostly dry. Day will be slight warm. Night will be pleasant

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THE HINDU
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Tobacco affordability fuelling cancer epidemic in India

Unlike in other countries where higher prices have deterred smoking, prices remain low in India; tobacco affordability undermines the World Health Organization's MPOWER framework and weakens control, hindering efforts to reduce tobacco-related cancers; implementing robust policies are the need of the hour to curb tobacco use

WORLD NO TOBACCO DAY

Vid Karmarkar

Take a walk around any Indian office, and you're likely to spot some employees gathered outside, sipping tea and smoking a cigarette. Sandeep, a young marketing professional, calls such "sutta (smoking) breaks" a creative escape. "It's time to take a break from work stress and make connections. The chai-sutta break is where ideas flow as freely as the smoke." But for many non-smokers, this come at a cost – involuntary exposure to second-hand smoke.

According to GATS2 data, nearly 42% of men and 14% of women in India use tobacco. Home to 70% of the world's smokeless tobacco (SLT) users, SLT is preferred over smoked tobacco in the country. In smoked tobacco, the bidi is favoured over cigarettes, especially in rural and low-income groups. Despite the preference for bidis, India has seen the largest increase in the market share of cigarettes globally.

Rajesh, a shopkeeper in Mulshi, a village near Pune, says, "Bidis are what people here can afford. Cigarettes are for the city folks. But now even in villages, people want to try cigarettes because they think it's modern."

Both SLT and smoked tobacco drastically increase cancer risk, particularly for lung, head, neck, stomach, and pancreatic cancers. "My uncle chewed tobacco for years," said Sunita, a homemaker from Maharashtra. "He passed away from mouth cancer, and we didn't realise how dangerous it was until it was too late," she says.

India ranks first globally in male cancer incidence and mortality rates. Among tobacco-related cancers in males, lung cancer leads globally, while in India, lip and oral cancers top the list, followed by lung cancer. "Every time I see someone with a gutkha (which is banned in India) pouch in their pocket, I feel like warning them," says Manish, a college student whose father died of oral cancer.

Along with the health burden, tobacco use imposed an economic cost of ₹1.77 lakh crore (1.04% of India's GDP) in 2017-2018. Smoking accounted for 74% of these costs, while SLT use made up 26%. With tobacco use on the rise, both health and economic costs are projected to increase. Rajiv, who quit smoking after a cancer scare, says: "I never realised the financial toll until I saw the hospital bills. Smoking doesn't just cost you money – it costs you your life and the lives of those who depend on you."

Call to action: People taking part in a rally against smoking on the occasion of World No Tobacco Day which is observed annually on May 31. K. MURALI KUMAR

India faces a dual challenge of significant health and economic burdens from tobacco-related cancers and the complexities of lung cancer screening in a tuberculosis-endemic country. This underscores the urgent need for evidence-based anti-tobacco policies as a primary prevention strategy. However, the tobacco industry's influence – through policy interference, pricing tactics to maintain affordability, targeted marketing, dense tobacco shop networks, and a lack of political will – ensures widespread tobacco accessibility.

"The fact that a bidi costs less than a cup of tea is a tragedy," says Ashok, a retired clerk. "When I was younger, I didn't think twice about buying a bidi. Now I see how cheap tobacco ruins lives." Taxation is a critical yet underutilised tool in reducing tobacco use. Despite the proposed GST increase to 35%, it falls short of the World Health Organization's recommendation of taxing tobacco at 75% of its MRP to effectively deter use. Even with the steep increase in tobacco tax, its impact decreases if consumers' income increases significantly.

Unlike in many countries where higher prices have curbed smoking, rising incomes in India – especially among the 450 million middle class – have outpaced tax hikes. With more purchasing power, tobacco remains affordable. The 2024 Union Budget's unchanged tobacco taxes worsened the issue, enabling "undershifting," where manufacturers absorb tax hikes to grow their markets.

Unit pricing

A key factor in tobacco affordability is its unit pricing. A pack of bidis has a median price of ₹12 but can be found for as little as ₹5. Similarly, smokeless tobacco products have a median price of ₹5, with some being sold for as low as ₹1. Shankar, a daily wage labourer and cancer patient says he could afford to buy a few packs every day. While cigarette packs have a median price of ₹95, cheaper options are available for as low as ₹5. Sonia, a college student, says, "Cigarettes are so cheap that they're easy to buy. The government needs to make it harder for people like us to afford them."

To enhance affordability, cigarettes are often sold as single sticks – a practice banned in 88 countries but not in India. Priced at approximately ₹15, single sticks become easily affordable and bypass graphic health warnings. Research shows that 87% of Indian cigarette vendors sell single sticks, frequently operating near tea stalls, reinforcing the widespread "chai-sutta" culture.

In India where a significant proportion of the population earns ₹170-180 per day, along with the addictive potential of tobacco, makes the current tobacco pricing affordable to fulfill their cravings.

Tobacco affordability undermines the WHO's MPOWER framework and weakens tobacco control, hindering efforts to reduce tobacco-related cancers. Reducing tobacco use is vital for cutting cancer incidence. Implementing robust anti-tobacco policies can be effective in curbing tobacco use.

Regular tax hikes that outpace income growth can make tobacco products unaffordable, discouraging their use. Additionally, banning single-stick sales can reinforce health warnings and curb impulse purchases. Further, allocating tobacco tax revenue towards public health initiatives, such as cancer screenings in underserved areas, can have a significant impact. Enforcing plain packaging with prominent health warnings can also reduce tobacco's appeal, while restricting sales near tea stalls can help break the 'chai-sutta' association. Robust enforcement, through regular inspections and penalties, is essential to uphold these regulations.

(Dr. Vid Karmarkar is a social entrepreneur, researcher, writer and advocate of advancing equitable cancer care and global health. He is also the founder of the Canseva Foundation, a registered nonprofit organisation. vid.karmarkar@gmail.com)

THE GIST

- India ranks first globally in male cancer incidence and mortality rates. Among tobacco-related cancers in males, lung cancer leads globally, while in India, lip and oral cancers top the list, followed by lung cancer
- Along with the health burden, tobacco use imposed an economic cost of ₹1.77 lakh crore (1.04% of India's GDP) in 2017-2018. Smoking accounted for 74% of these costs, while SLT use made up 26%
- India faces a dual challenge of significant health and economic burdens from tobacco-related cancers and the complexities of lung cancer screening in a tuberculosis-endemic country. This underscores the urgent need for evidence-based anti-tobacco policies as a primary prevention strategy

BIG SHOT

Taking precautions: People wearing masks while waiting at King George Hospital in Visakhapatnam as COVID norms get reinforced in the city. Number of cases have been rising across the country. K.R. DEEPAK

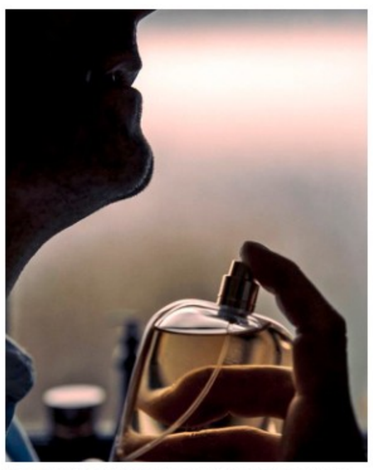
Science behind scent: how skin microbiome can influence effect of perfumes on humans

Ramya Kannan

For someone who has been battling bad bugs for his entire professional life, life has produced an interesting deviation for Abdul Ghafur, infectious diseases expert. He has now begun engaging with the good bugs too, looking in particular at the skin microbiome to see what perfume is right for you.

The perfume type has to be at ease with your skin microbiome, for it to actually work. Otherwise, multiple applications and overexposure to the chemicals in the perfumes might turn sour, at the least, and at the extreme, even turn harmful for humans. "We think of bugs as being all 'bad', but that is not true at all. About 99.999% of bugs are either neutral or good for us. It's only 0.001% of bugs that are 'bad', rather, disease causing," Dr. Ghafur says.

"I am a connoisseur of perfume. And I've always wondered why some perfumes work for some people, but not for others. No two people have the same skin microbiome, and that's why a perfume that smells divine on one person may not work the same on another. The secret lies not just in the perfume, but in how your skin's bacteria interact with its ingredients," he explains. If a certain perfume does not work, "people just keep changing their brands frequently, or they think they have to apply more, spray liberally, or use the perfume multiple times. All of which cannot be good, because these perfumes are essentially a cocktail of chemicals that can impact the skin, cardiac health and may also be carcinogenic," he adds.



The perfume type has to be at ease with your skin microbiome, for it to actually work. ISTOCKPHOTO

That is what led him to studying what determines why perfumes work or not. "It's skin chemistry, basically. The human skin is home to millions of bacteria that control the pH level, dryness, oil content etc. And we have plenty of data on these skin microbiome," he says. Sweat itself has no odour, it's just salt and water, it is the skin bacteria that lend the smell to sweat.

What causes body odour

As far as body odour goes, there are three key groups of enabler bugs: Cutibacterium acnes, found in areas rich in sebaceous glands (face, back, chest, armpit, groin), contributes to a musky odour through lipid breakdown. The second is Corynebacterium, found in moist regions like the armpit and groin, which converts sweat compounds into pungent volatiles including sulphur compounds.

Finally, there is Staphylococcus epidermidis, common on the face, scalp, armpits, and groin, which plays a balancing role – less directly involved in odour production and may help prevent overgrowth of stronger odour-producing microbes.

The concentration of the skin microbiome is influenced by food, the environment and weather changes, but the percentage composition of the main bacterial group remains the same for an individual for a long while. There are general preferences on where certain fragrance types perform better – for instance, floral notes tend to work well on drier areas like the wrist, while musky scents are better suited for comparatively moist regions such as the neck.

There is a lot of information available about the skin microbiome from a health perspective, but literally none of that has been adopted by the fragrance industry.

He has now taken up skin microbiome metagenomic testing for other connoisseurs of perfumes. "We are not recommending testing for everyone. There is no viable business model for routine, expensive metagenomic testing before choosing a perfume. Our goal is to share valuable insights from microbiome and VOC (Volatile Organic Compound) research and how they can be applied conceptually to fragrance use," he says.

Recent consumer surveys, he adds, have shown an increased interest in safe and microbiome-friendly products.

"Several deodorants are already microbiome friendly, but that kind of orientation for perfumes is missing," Dr. Ghafur says.

(ramya.kannan@thehindu.co.in)

For feedback and suggestions for 'Science', please write to **science@thehindu.co.in** with the subject 'Daily page'

Two relatives arrested for murder of woman in city

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Cottonpet police said they had cracked the murder of a home-alone woman in Bengaluru, and arrested her relatives, who allegedly strangled to steal her valuables to recover the loss they had incurred in a scam.

The victim Latha, 50, is a native of Bidar, who lived on Dargah Road at Cottonpet. The police said that the victim welcomed the accused when they visited her house and served snacks. After having snacks, the accused allegedly strangled and left with the cash and gold valuables.

The victim Latha was murdered in her house at Cottonpet.

The accused, Shivappa and Purandar, are distant relatives who used to visit Latha once in a while. They had incurred a huge loss in a 'rice pulling scam' and were desperate to get back the money.

The duo are from Bidar and work as electricians in a private company. They then zeroed in on Latha. As per the plan, they came to the city by bus and visited her house. Latha's husband, who owns a ready-made garment shop at Upparpet, was at work. Her daughter had gone to work, while the son was away at school when the accused arrived.

After the murder, the accused returned to the bus stand in an autorickshaw to board a bus back to Bidar. However, the police obtained some clues about the assailants, including CCTV camera footage, and followed their trail and took them into custody.

Three held for stealing vehicle batteries

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Begur police have arrested a gang of three persons on the charge of stealing batteries from vehicles parked on the road.

Based on a complaint by an SUV owner, the police tracked down the accused, identified as Surendra Kumar, 33, from Rajasthan, working as a labourer in the city, and his associates, Tousif, 30, and Arifulla Khan, 50.

The trio used to allegedly move around residential areas and steal vehicle batteries and sell them. The police have recovered 24 batteries of vehicles worth ₹11.5 lakh, and solved eight theft cases reported in and around the city.

NGMA to host tribal art workshop

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

As part of International Museum Day celebrations, the National Gallery of Modern Art (NGMA), Bengaluru, under the Ministry of Culture, Government of India, is organising an art workshop focused on *Chittara*, a traditional tribal art form from Karnataka.

The event will be held at 11.30 a.m. on Friday, on the NGMA premises in Manikyavelu Mansion, Palace Road.

Chanakya University to host lecture

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Chanakya University will host a distinguished lecture titled '*Process Reforms - The Road to Viksit Bharat*' on Monday. Sanjeev Sanyal, member of the Prime Minister's economic advisory council and chancellor of Gokhale Institute of Politics and Economics, Pune, will deliver the lecture .

The event is part of the university's ongoing distinguished lecture series and will take place at Yuva Patha, located at 31st Cross, 11th Main Road, 4th T Block, Jayanagar. The event will begin at 5 p.m.

APPOINTMENT

V.O.Chidambaranar Port Authority
General Administration Department, Tuticorin
(An Autonomous Body under MoPSW, GoI)

GAD-EST10ESTC/1/2025-GAD/D. Date: 30.05.2025

V.O. Chidambaranar Port Authority invites applications for the following Positions:-

Engagement of Professional Functionaries on contractual basis:

Fields	Position	No.	Monthly Remuneration
Business Development and Trade Promotion, Information, Communication and Technology (ICT), Corporate Legal & Environment Planning and Safety	Chief Manager	3	Rs. 2,00,000
	Senior Manager	3	Rs. 1,60,000
	Manager	7	Rs. 1,20,000
TOTAL		13	

For, details regarding experience, educational qualifications, etc., visit VOC Port's website at www.vocport.gov.in (careers). Last date for the receipt of applications is **30.06.2025**.

Sd/-30.05.2025
Secretary

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Published by Nirmala Lakshman at No 19&21, Bhagwan Mahaveer Road, Bengaluru-560001 and Printed by C. Sridhar at Plot No. 13-D, Bommasandra-Jigani Link Road, KIADB Industrial Area, Bommasandra, Anekal Taluk, Bengaluru-560099 on behalf of THG PUBLISHING PVT LTD., Chennai-600002. Editor: Suresh Nambath (Responsible for selection of news under the PRP Act).
ISSN 0971 - 751X

Text&Context

THE HINDU

NEWS IN NUMBERS

The decline in the U.S.'s GDP in the January-March period

0.2 In per cent. The U.S. economy contracted less than estimated in the first three months of this year, data showed, revising data that came after an import surge triggered by President Trump's tariffs. The downturn in first quarter GDP reflected an uptick in imports. AFP

Cost of Syria's energy deal with Qatari, Turkish, and U.S. firms

7 In $ billion. Syria signed a $7 billion energy deal with a consortium of Qatari, Turkish and U.S. companies as it seeks to revive the war-torn country's crippled power sector. The agreement was sealed at the presidential palace in Damascus in the presence of interim President Ahmed al-Sharaa. AFP

'New settlements' to be created by Israel in the West Bank

22 Israel announced the creation of new settlements in occupied West Bank, putting further strain on relations with the international community already taxed by the Gaza war. Both Britain and Jordan slammed the move, with London calling it a "deliberate obstacle" to Palestinian statehood. AFP

The International Monetary Fund's loan payout to Ukraine

500 In $ million. The International Monetary Fund on Thursday announced that it had reached an agreement with Ukraine on a loan program review to unlock around $500 million dollars of funds to support macroeconomic stability. PTI

Cybercrimes recorded by the Hyderabad police last year

3,111 The Hyderabad city police launched Zonal Cyber Cells across all seven zones of the city to strengthen the response to cybercrimes. The initiative aims to provide swift and effective solutions to cybercrimes. PTI

COMPILED BY THE HINDU DATA TEAM

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Autonomous warfare in Operation Sindoor

In the recent India-Pakistan war, over four days of hostilities, both sides effectively rewrote their rules of engagement, ushering in a 'new normal' of airborne deterrence without pilots, but with autonomous platforms, armed drones and loitering munitions

FULL CONTEXT

Rahul Bedi

Launched in early May, in retaliation to the April 22 Pahalgam terror attack, Operation Sindoor marks a historic milestone, in which Unmanned Aerial Systems (UAS) played a primary role in direct military combat between two nuclear-armed neighbours, signalling an uncharted era of drone-centric warfare in South Asia.

Over four days of hostilities, both sides effectively rewrote their rules of engagement, ushering in a 'new normal' of airborne deterrence without pilots, but with autonomous platforms, armed drones and loitering munitions, all operating below the threshold of a full-scale war, and shaping a calibrated, escalation-managed conflict.

In the 48 hours preceding Operation Sindoor, Israeli Heron MK-II and indigenously designed TAPAS-BH-201/ Rustom-II-Medium-Altitude Long-Endurance (MALE) Intelligence, Surveillance and Reconnaissance (ISR) Unmanned Aerial Vehicles (UAVs) are believed to have flown deep into Pakistani airspace to gather electronic and signals intelligence and thermal signatures of suspected Islamist terror camps.

Thereafter, from May 7 onwards, after the Indian Air Force (IAF) attacked nine targets inside Pakistan, both sides employed a broad spectrum of UAS – from ISR UAVs to armed drones, kamikaze loitering munitions, electronic decoys and quadcopters – as dual-purpose tools for real-time intelligence gathering and precision strikes. And as this drone war intensified, both countries sought to dominate the battlespace through persistent aerial surveillance by mapping out enemy air defences, missile batteries, command centres, troop clusters and logistical nodes. Decoy drones too were widely employed to spoof radars, 'bait' air defence systems and exhaust interceptors, minimising risk to manned assets, before ceasefire ensued on May 10.

New war: A soldier looks at a drone at the Akhnoor sector near the LoC in Jammu on May 19. AFP

India's array of aerial systems

In the intervening period, India claimed to have downed some 600 Pakistani drones, releasing intercepted footage and wreckage to reinforce its assertions in a high-stakes information war, paralleling the kinetic exchanges. Pakistan, in turn, alleged that 300-400 Indian drones had unsuccessfully targeted its military and strategic infrastructure, before being shot down. India has neither confirmed nor denied these avowals, citing Operation Sindoor's enduring operational status for its silence.

Open-source intelligence and drone-tracking data, meanwhile, revealed that India's offensive against Pakistan featured a diverse UAS inventory. It was spearheaded by indigenously developed loitering munitions like the GPS-guided Nagastra-1 and Israeli-origin Harop drones, capable of autonomously homing in on enemy radar systems.

To overwhelm Pakistan's air defences, India also deployed swarm drone formations developed jointly by the Defence Research and Development Organisation and private contractors to create radar clutter, trigger premature defensive responses and saturate surveillance networks. Priority targets included ammunition depots, Surface-to-Air Missile (SAM) batteries, radar sites, and forward operating bases.

The strikes were delivered in carefully sequenced waves. Initial sorties deployed decoy drones and electronic warfare payloads to saturate radar coverage and provoke early, albeit futile SAM launches. These were followed by precision loitering munitions and armed UAVs, guided in real-time by Heron MK IIs and TAPAS-BH-201/ Rustom-IIs. Quadcopters and micro-UAVs played a critical role in relaying live ISR feeds and target acquisition data via the Army's Integrated Battle Management System (IBMS) to forward units, ensuring dynamic targeting and reaction.

Notably, media reports claimed that India's drone strikes disrupted a cricket match in Rawalpindi, forcing a stadium evacuation due to air defence alarms. Another significant Harop strike, reportedly destroyed a Chinese-supplied HQ-9 air defence system near Lahore, delivering both a psychological blow and a strategic setback to Pakistan's layered air defence shield.

Consequently, military analysts noted that India's overwhelming use of varied UAS to deliver calibrated, cross-border strikes without risking manned aircraft, represented the emerging regional model of deterrence. They said it also visibly showcased India's growing competence in autonomous, cost-effective, and networked warfare, demonstrating a significant shift in the balance of aerial power in South Asia.

Pakistan's retaliation

Pakistan, for its part, in its reactive Operation Bunyan-um-Marsoos (wall of lead), deployed a range of UAS, including its indigenously developed Shahpar (feather)-II MALE UAVs, armed Burraq (lightening) drones, Turkish-origin Bayraktar TB2s, and Chinese-supplied CH-4 and Wing Loong II platforms. These assets were complemented by CH-901 and WS-43 loitering munitions from China and domestically produced kamikaze drones, launched at multiple targets across a 1,500-kilometre expanse, stretching from Kashmir in the north to Bhuj in the west.

While the Shahpar-IIs, TB2s, and Wing Loong IIs primarily conducted ISR missions – streaming real-time imagery of Indian troop concentrations, artillery positions, and logistics depots – Pakistan's loitering munitions targeted radar stations, forward operating bases and critical Army and IAF command nodes in the northern and western sectors. However, these attacks were effectively neutralised by India's robust, multi-tiered air defence grid, inflicting minimal or no damage at all.

Strategic urban and military infrastructure hubs – including Jammu, Pathankot and Amritsar in Punjab, Bikaner and Jaisalmer in Rajasthan, and Bhuj in Gujarat – too were frequently targeted. But despite the density of these assaults, India's integrated air defence network –comprising layered radar coverage, SAM batteries, automated threat-response mechanisms, and upgraded Cold War-era legacy platforms and systems – mitigated damage, preventing disruption.

India's multi-layer air defence system

Pakistan repeatedly sought to probe and bring to heel India's Integrated Air Command and Control System (IACCS) – its air defence nerve centre – by launching drones via varied routes, altitudes and diverse timings, to disrupt its communication nodes and forward-deployed command centres, albeit unsuccessfully. The IACCS fuses surveillance inputs from ground-based radars, airborne early warning and control platforms, satellites, and other sensors into a centralised but distributed command-and-control network. It integrates with SAM systems and fighter aircraft, enabling the rapid detection, tracking, and interception of low-altitude threats, including UASs. Its built-in mechanisms ensured continuity of operations, even if any individual nodes were damaged, jammed or destroyed.

Pakistan attempted to overload the IACCSs radar coverage, confuse response loops, and expose vulnerabilities for follow-on drone or missile strikes. However, military officials confirmed the IACCS's core network remained intact, with all and any temporary disruptions swiftly mitigated through alternate data links and pre-positioned mobile radars.

Analysts further noted the system's 'mesh' architecture allowed seamless failovers when nodes were hit, with satellite uplinks and mobile platforms sustaining full situational awareness. The IACCS also displayed its Directed Energy Weapons (DEWs) capability in which high-powered lasers or microwaves, via a real-time network, detected, tracked and neutralised airborne threats like drones speedily.

Complementing the IACCS at the tactical level was the Akashteer (Sky Arrow) air defence control and reporting system, developed by Bharat Electronics Limited, which provided a digitised command layer for Army Air Defence units, enabling seamless coordination between sensor units and weapon platforms. Designed to rapidly disseminate targeting data and manage low-level threats – including UAVs – it ensured that frontline SAM units could engage targets with minimal delay, even under electronic warfare or communication stress.

The accompanying air defence shield was built around a layered architecture combining retrofitted legacy Low-Level Air Defence (LLAD) systems with advanced missile platforms in an unparalleled innovative mix that remains a hallmark of the Indian military's improvisation.

Ingeniously upgraded with radar-directed fire capability and electro-optical sights, Cold War-era systems from the early 1960s, comprised the LLAD network for close-in protection against drones. These included Pechora and OSA-AK SAM systems and ZSU-23-4 Shilka, ZU-23-2 twin barrel 23mm anti-aircraft (AA) guns from Soviet times, and the L/70 Bofors 40mm AA platform dating back to the 1940s. Army and Border Security Force snipers too were part of the LLAD structure, shooting down numerous incoming drones in Jammu, Punjab and Rajasthan.

These 'heirloom' LLAD platforms were supplemented by the Israeli SPYDER short and medium-range air defence missile system using Python-5 and Derby missiles for point defence against UAVs, cruise missiles, and aircraft.

A new kind of war

The domestic Akash and Akash-NG (New Generation) missile system provided medium-range coverage, while the long-range Barak-8, jointly developed with Israel, defended high-value assets and strategic nodes from aircraft, drones, and ballistic/cruise missiles. These were all backed by Russia's Almaz-Antey S-400 'Triumf' self-propelled surface-to-air missile system – renamed Sudarshan Chakra – one the world's best, of which India had acquired five units for $5.5 billion in October 2018 and, so far, taken delivery of three.

All these systems were centrally integrated through the IACCS, enabling coordinated, real-time responses and full-spectrum aerial threat mitigation.

In conclusion, Operation Sindoor was not merely a skirmish; it was a seismic shift in which two nuclear-armed rivals stepped into the age of autonomous warfare, where deterrence is digital, and dominance is algorithmic. And as the smoke subsides, one truth remains: the next war will not begin with a soldier's charge, but with the silent whir of drones in the sky.

Rahul Bedi is a veteran journalist based in New Delhi and Chandigarh specialising in military, defence and security matters.

THE GIST

- Open-source intelligence and drone-tracking data, meanwhile, revealed that India's offensive against Pakistan featured a diverse UAS inventory.
- Pakistan repeatedly sought to probe and bring to heel India's Integrated Air Command and Control System (IACCS) — its air defence nerve centre —by launching drones via varied routes, altitudes and diverse timings, to disrupt its communication nodes and forward-deployed command centres, albeit unsuccessfully.
- Operation Sindoor was not merely a skirmish; it was a seismic shift in which two nuclear-armed rivals stepped into the age of autonomous warfare, where deterrence is digital, and dominance is algorithmic.

CENTRAL ELECTRICITY REGULATORY COMMISSION

6th, 7th, & 8th Floor, Tower-B, World Trade Centre, Nauroji Nagar, New Delhi-110029
Website: www.cercind.gov.in

Petition No. 494/TL/2024 **Dated: 26.5.2025**

NOTICE UNDER CLAUSE (a) OF SUB-SECTION (5) OF SECTION 15 OF THE ELECTRICITY ACT, 2003

An application under Sections 14, 15 and 79(1)(e) of the Electricity Act, 2003 (the Act) has been made by **POWERGRID South Olpad Transmission Limited**, B-9, Qutab Institutional Area, Katwaria Sarai, New Delhi 110016 to implement the inter-state transmission system namely "Transmission System for Evacuation of Power from potential renewable energy zone in Khavda area of Gujarat under Phase-IV (7 GW): Part B" (hereinafter referred to as "Project") on a Build, Own, Operate and Transfer basis, consisting of the following elements:

Sl. No.	Name of the Transmission Element	Scheduled COD in months from Effective Date
1.	Establishment of 2x1500 MVA, 765/400 kV GIS S/s at a suitable location South of Olpad (between Olpad and Ichhapore) with 2x330 MVAR, 765 kV & 1x125 MVAR, 420 kV bus reactors • 765/400 kV, 1x1500 MVA ICT-2 Nos. (7x500 MVA single phase units including one spare unit) • 765 kV ICT bays- 2 Nos. • 400 kV ICT bays- 2 Nos. • 330 MVAR, 765 kV bus reactor-2 Nos. • 125 MVAR, 420 kV bus reactor-1 No. • 765 kV reactor bay- 2 Nos. • 765 kV line bay- 4 Nos. • 400 kV reactor bay- 1 No. • 400 kV line bay- 4 Nos. • 110 MVAR, 765 kV, 1-ph reactor (spare unit for line/bus reactor)-1 No. Future Provisions: Space for • 765/400 kV ICT along with bays- 4 Nos. • 765 kV line bays along with switchable line reactors –8 Nos. • 765 kV Bus Reactor along with bay: 2 Nos. • 765 kV Sectionaliser bay: 1- set • 400 kV line bays along with switchable line reactor – 8 Nos. • 400/220 kV ICT along with bays - 10 Nos. • 420 kV Bus Reactor along with bay: 3 Nos. • 400 kV Sectionalization bay: 1- set • 220 kV line bays: 18 Nos. • 220 kV Sectionalization bay: 1 set • 220 kV BC: 1 Nos. • Establishment of 2500 MW, ± 500 kV South Olpad (HVDC) [VSC] terminal station (2x1250 MW)	24 months from SPV acquisition (15/10/2026)
2.	• Vadodara (GIS) –South Olpad (GIS) 765 kV D/C line • 2 Nos. of 765 kV line bays at Vadodara (GIS) for Vadodara (GIS) – South Olpad (GIS) 765 kV D/C line	
3.	240 MVAR switchable line reactors on each ckt at Vadodara (GIS) end of Vadodara (GIS) – South Olpad (GIS) 765 kV D/C line (with NGR bypass arrangement) • 240 MVAR, 765 kV switchable line reactor- 2 Nos. • Switching equipment for 765 kV line reactor- 2 Nos. • 1x80 MVAR spare bus reactor available at Vadodara (GIS) to be used as spare	
4.	LILO of Gandhar – Hazira 400 kV D/c line at South Olpad (GIS) using twin HTLS conductor with minimum capacity of 2100 MVA per ckt at nominal voltage	
5.	• Ahmedabad-South Olpad (GIS) 765 kV D/c line • 2 Nos. of 765 kV line bays at Ahmedabad S/s for Ahmedabad- South Olpad (GIS) 765 kV D/c line	
6.	240 MVAR switchable line reactors on each ckt at Ahmedabad & South Olpad (GIS) end of Ahmedabad-South Olpad (GIS) 765 kV D/c line (with NGR bypass arrangement) • 240 MVAR, 765 kV switchable line reactor- 4 Nos. [2 for Ahmedabad end and 2 for South Olpad (GIS) end] • Switching equipment for 765 kV line reactor- 4 Nos. [2 for Ahmedabad end and 2 for South Olpad (GIS) end] • 1x80 MVAR, 765 kV 1- ph spare line reactor – 1 No. (for South Olpad end) • 1x80 MVAR, 765 kV 1- ph spare line reactor being implemented for Lakadia – Ahmedabad line (under Khavda Ph-II Part B scheme) at Ahmedabad S/s to be used as spare	

Note:

i. TSP of Vadodara S/s shall provide space for work envisaged at Sl. No. 2 & 3 given above
ii. TSP of Ahmedabad S/s shall provide space for work envisaged at Sl. No. 5 & 6 given above
iii. The indicative total space requirement for the HVDC terminal station is 400 m x 300m. The AC switchyard connection and DC overhead line shall be from the 300 m side of the rectangular plot.
iv. TSP shall ensure that the width of the approach road and access road shall be at least 10 m for facilitating smooth transportation of HVDC equipment, including converter transformer, and with access road all around the space for HVDC.
v. TSP shall ensure that the spatial arrangement for the proposed space for the HVDC terminal and the layout proposed for the current AC GIS transmission scheme is such that:
   a. Bus duct length required for interconnection between the AC GIS station and HVDC terminal is minimum to the extent possible in a linear manner.
   b. The layout of the AC line termination gantries should be such that there is no crossing of present/ future AC lines and HVDC lines near the termination ends of both AC and HVDC yards.

2. The Central Transmission Utility of India Limited, vide its letter dated 6.11.2024, has recommended for the grant of a transmission licence to the applicant to establish the proposed transmission system.
3. Based on the material available on the record, the Commission vide order dated 24.5.2025 in Petition No. 494/TL/2024, has proposed to issue a transmission licence to the applicant for establishment of the transmission scheme as noted in para 1 above.
4. A copy of the application, along with its annexures and enclosures, made by the applicant for the grant of an inter-State transmission licence to **POWERGRID South Olpad Transmission Limited** before the Commission can be accessed at the **www.powergrid.in/subsidiaries** or inspected by any person in the Commission's office by following the laid down procedure.
5. Notice is hereby given in pursuance of clause (a) of sub-section (5) of Section 15 of the Act that suggestions or objections, if any, to the Commission's proposal to grant a transmission licence to the applicant, as aforesaid, be sent to the undersigned by **4.6.2025** at the above noted address. The suggestions or objections received after the specified date shall not be considered.
6. The application shall be taken up for the further hearing by the Commission on **5.6.2025.** Any person who files suggestions or objections may in his/her discretion attend the hearing, for which no TA/DA shall be paid by the Commission.

Sd/-
(Harpreet Singh Pruthi)
Secretary

TAMIL NADU MEDICAL SERVICES CORPORATION LTD.

(A Government of Tamilnadu Undertaking)
No. 417, Pantheon Road, Egmore, Chennai-600 008.
Phone: 044-2819 1890, 2819 0259. Website: www.tnmsc.tn.gov.in
E-Mail: gmdrug.tnmsc@tn.gov.in, mngrpurdrug.tnmsc@tn.gov.in

Online Tenders are invited by the Tender Inviting Authority, Tamilnadu Medical Services Corporation Ltd., Chennai-600008, from the Licensed **Vaccine** Manufacturers having one year Market Standing and holding Good Manufacturing Practice Certificate (as per revised Schedule-"M") and for direct Importers holding a valid Import License and experience in the field for a minimum period of one year. Loan Licensees having Valid Loan License with the one year Market Standing is also eligible to participate in this tender.

Sl. No	Description	e-Tender Reference	Tender Floating Period	e-Tender Submission Duration	Date and time of online opening of Technical Bids
1	Online Tender for the supply of **Human Papilloma Virus Vaccine** to TNMSC Limited under rate contract system for two years from the date of acceptance	e-012/M(P)/HPV-VACCINE/ TNMSC/2025, Dt. 02.06.2025	02.06.2025 at 4.00 PM to 23.06.2025 upto 3.00 PM	09.06.2025 at 10.00 AM to 23.06.2025 upto 3.00 PM	23.06.2025 at 4.00 PM

The tender document can be downloaded and the tender shall be submitted at **https://tntenders.gov.in/.** The tender document can also be downloaded at **www.tnmsc.tn.gov.in** for reference purpose.

DIPR/ 2689 /TENDER/2025

Tender Inviting Authority / General Manager (Drugs)

KRISHNA BHAGYA JALA NIGAM LIMITED

(A Government of Karnataka undertaking)
Office of the Executive Engineer, KBJNL.NRBC.Divn.No.6,Chikkahonnakuni,
Tq: Devadurga. Dist: Raichur-584 111. KARNATAKA.

No.KBJNL/NRBC/D-6/PB-2//Consultancy/TND/2025-26/120 DATED:23-05-2025

TENDER NOTIFICATION

(ONLY THROUGH ELECTRONIC TENDER SYSTEM)

On behalf of the Managing Director, KBJNL, Bengaluru, the Executive Engineer KBJNL, NRBC, Division No.6, Chikkahonnakuni Tq: Devadurga, Dist: Raichur was invited in KC-4 on percentage in Two cover system from firms/companies/ consultants for the following Consultancy work. The blank tenders can be obtained through website www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in and submitted through electronic tender box).

Consultancy work for Distributary-31 and its lateral network coming under NRBC Extension & Bolamandoddi Lift Irrigation Scheme under UKP stage-III in Raichur Tq and Dist. (Work_Indent1566) having of Rs.253.67Lakh and EMD of Rs.3.81Lakh.

The details of events for the above work is mentioned as below:-

1) The Contractors can have access to e-tendering documents from 28/05/2025 to 17/06/2025 upto 5.00PM. 2) Pre-Bid meeting / Clarification for Queries will be held in Division office on 02/06/2025 @ 11.00 AM. 3) Last Date of Receipt of the above Tenders will be 17/06/2025 up to 5.00 PM.4) Technical Bid for cover-I will be opened in the office of the Executive Engineer, KBJNL, Division No.6, Chikkahonakuni on 18/06/2025 @ 5.30 PM onwards.5) Financial Bid for for cover-II will be opened in the office of the Executive Engineer, KBJNL, Division No.6, Chikkahonakuni on 23/06/2025 @ 11.00 AM (If possible).

For any clarification regarding the tenders please Contact htt://kppp.karnataka.gov.in or office of the under signed during office hours on working days.

Sd/- Executive Engineer, KBJNL, NRBC, Division No.6, CHIKKAHONNAKUNI

DIP/RCR/145/KSMC&A/145/2024-25

BRUHAT BENGALURU MAHANAGARA PALIKE

Office of the Executive Engineer, Projects Division, Yelahanka Zone, Byatarayanapura, Bengaluru-560092

No. BBMP/YNK/EE (Project)/TEND/01/2025-26 Date : 28-05-2025

NOTICE INVITING TENDER (NIT)

TWO COVER SYSTEM (Through GOK KPP Portal only)

The Executive Engineer (Project Division), Yelahanka Zone BBMP invites tenders from eligible contractors registered in Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike / KPWD / CPWD / Railways / MES / National Highway or any State Govt. Organization for the construction of works detailed in the Table below.

Sl.	Name of the Projects
1	Civil Maintenance of Yelahanka Constituency Parks. **Amount Put to tender :** Rs. 31.23 Lakhs. **EMD :** Rs. 62,500/-
2	Civil Maintenance of Byatarayanapura Constituency Parks. **Amount Put to tender :** Rs. 31.23 Lakhs. **EMD :** Rs. 62,500/-

Calendar of events : (1) Tender Documents may be downloaded from Government of Karnataka KPP Portal **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in. (2)** Last date & time for Queries (only through online) : **10-06-2025 upto 3.00 PM (3)** Date and time of pre-bid meeting : **11-06-2025 upto 4.00 PM (4)** Last Date & Time for receipt of Tenders : **16-06-2025 at 4.00 PM (5)** Opening of Technical bid : **17-06-2025 at 4.30 PM (6)** Opening of Financial bid (If Possible) : On **19-06-2025 at 4.00 PM** if possible.

Sd/- Executive Engineer, Project Division, Yelahanka Zone

Govt. of Karnataka

Shivamogga Zilla Panchayath
Shivamogga District Shivamogga

(Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme) Address: PO BOX NUMBER:127, Kuvempu Road Shivamogga E-mail: ceo.shimoga@gmail.com
Phone: 08182-267231

No. ZPS/MGNREGA/e-Tender/2025-26 Date: 27-05-2025

Tender Notification

Sub: Tender Notification for the Selection of Man Power Agency for providing out sourcing services in Shivamogga districts (Through e-procurement only)

On behalf of The Chief Executive Officer, Shivamogga Zilla Panchayath, Shivamogga District Rural Development & Panchayath Raj Department (RD&PR), Government of Karnataka, the undersigned is inviting tenders through e-procurement platform in two cover system (Technical & Financial) from the eligible Man Power agencies for providing out sourcing services in Shivamogga districts for the period of 1 Years. Details obtained from the website of Karnataka Public procurement portal (KPPP), e-procurement Department, Government of Karnataka. The last date for submission of Tenders at https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in/is Date:30-06-2025 before 4.00 pm.

Schedule of Tender Process:

Particulars:- SINo.1. Start date for Uploading the Tender document in e-portal 29-05-2025 from 11.00am Hr Onwards

2. Last Date for receiving queries: 06-06-2025 Before 3 PM

3. Last Date for submission of proposals in e-portal: 30-06-2025 upto16:00Hr **4.** Opening of Technical Bids in the e-portal: 03-07-2025 @ 11.00 Hr **5**. Opening of Financial Bids of Technically qualified Bidders: 11-07-2025 @ 11.00 Hr If Possible

Sd/- Chief Executive Officer, Zilla Panchayath, Shivamogga District

DIPR/smg/ksmca/25-26/171/05/334

BENGALURU METROPOLITAN TRANSPORT CORPORATION

Traffic (Com) Department, 2nd Floor, Shanthinagar TTMC, K.H. Road, Bengaluru-560 027. Tel. No: 080-22537575
E-mail: ctmc@mybmtc.com Website: www.mybmtc.com

No.: BMTC/CO/TR/COM/1797/936/2025-26 Date: 29.05.2025

TENDER NOTIFICATION No.: 10/2025-26

(e-Procurement Platform)

Bengaluru Metropolitan Transport Corporation invites bids from the interested Persons/Agency/Company on monthly license fee basis for **ATM Counters and Prestige Apartment Flat** through e-procurement platform. Last date for submission of bids: **14.06.2025 up to 17.00 hrs.** Date of opening Financial bids: **16.06.2025 at 11.30 hrs.** For Further details on license fees, EMD, Area and other conditions log on to: **www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in** & Contact no: 080-46010000; 23010901; 22371090; 22340060, 22340948 or 7760997519 & 7760991222. E-mail: **ctmc@mybmtc.com**

Sd/- Chief Traffic Manager (Com) (Tender Inviting Authority)

Government of Karnataka

Rural Development and Panchayat Raj Department

2nd Floor, 3rd Gate. M.S Building, Ambedkar Veedhi, Bengaluru-560001, Phone No:080-22032754, eMail: diregov.rdpr@gov.in, rdpr.info@gmail.com

No: RDPR/143/eGov/2023 **Date: 29.05.2025**

Notification

Office of e-Governance, Rural Development and Panchayat Raj Department, Government of Karnataka, invites tender for Empanelment of Social Media Management Agency to service for the Rural Development and Panchayat Raj Department along with Hon'ble Minister, Rural Development and Panchayat Raj Department' Social Media handles:

Date of Bid Document at Floated on eProcurement: 28.05.2025

Last Date for submission of Proposals on eProcurement: 16.06.2025

Interested agency can participate in the tender.

For further details on kindly visit **https://www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in** Application

sd/-
Director, eGovernance
Rural Development & Panchayat Raj Dept

DIPR/CP/914/AKAR/2025-26

KARNATAKA STATE AGRICULTURAL MARKETING BOARD

No.16, 2nd Raj Bhavan Road, Bengaluru-560001
PH: 080-22867369, E-mail: cgmksamb@gmail.com

Tender No:KSAMB/Res/35/571/2025-26 **Dated: 29.05.2025**

EXPRESSION OF INTEREST (EOI)

The Managing Director, Karnataka State Agriculture Board (KSAMB) is inviting two Expression of Interests (EOIs) for supply of :

(1) Mobile Weigh Bridge - Indent No.APMC/2025-26/Prequal_Tender_Number_2

(2) Truck Mounted Crane- Indent No.APMC/2025-26/Prequal_Tender_Number_3.

The interested firms can participate in the EOI in Karnataka Public Procurement Portal (KPPP) website: **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** and submit their details. The last date for submission of EOI is **09.06.2025.** The Detailed EOI and technical specifications of the mobile weigh bridge and truck mounted crane are uploaded in the e-procurement portal for bidders' ready reference.

For further details EOI please contact the Superintending Engineer Office at office hours from **10:30 AM to 5:30 PM.**

Sd/-
Chief General Manager
K.S.A.M.B., Bengaluru.

DIPR/CP/920/SHIRDI SAI/2025-26

ଓଡ଼ିଶା ବିଦ୍ୟୁତ୍ ଶକ୍ତି ସଂଚାରଣ ନିଗମ ଲିଃ

(ଓଡ଼ିଶା ସରକାରଙ୍କ ଏକ ଉପକ୍ରମ)

ODISHA POWER TRANSMISSION CORPORATION LIMITED

(A Government of Odisha Undertaking)

Regd. Office: OPTCL Tech Tower, Janpath, Saheed Nagar, Bhubaneswar-751007

NOTICE INVITING E-TENDER

Bids Are Invited from reputed EPC/Turnkey Contractors:

E-Tender No.	Tender Description:	Estimated Cost
CGM (Tel.)-03/2025-26	Supply, Erection, Testing and Commissioning of equipment for data and speech communication between JSPL, Barbil and SLDC, Bhubaneswar through OPGW on "Turnkey Contract Basis".	Rs.14405277.00

Complete set of bidding documents are available at **www.optcl.co.in.**

CAD-585
OIPR-04011/11/0173/2526 /optcl.odisha /optcl_odisha **HIPR-14/2025-26**

Government of Odisha

Sports & Youth Services Department

Kalinga Stadium, Bhubaneswar-751012
Email: deptsportsodisha@gmail.com

No.SYS-SEB-Events-0008-2024 - 12903/SYS, **27th May, 2025**

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL

Sports and Youth Services Department, Government of Odisha invites bids from reputed agencies for the RFP for **"Engagement of Agencies for Conducting State-wide National & International Marathons"**. The details of the document are available at the below mentioned website.

Website: https://tendersodisha.gov.in & https://sports.odisha.gov.in

Interested firms / parties / agencies are advised to study the RFP document carefully before submitting their bid.

Important Dates & Information :

Date of Publication of RFP : 27th May 2025
Last Date and Time for Submission of Pre-Bid Queries : 2nd June 2025, 05:00 PM
Pre-Bid Meeting : 3rd June 2025, 11:00 AM
Last Date and Time for Submission of Bid : 12th June 2025, 04:00 PM
Opening of Technical Bid : 13th June 2025, 11:00 AM

Sd/-
Director, Sports

TT-05: OIPR-29001/11/0085/2526

GOVERNMENT OF KARNATAKA

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER, PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT DIVISION KOPPAL. Phone No:08539-222318.email:eepwdkpl2@gmail.com

IFT No. PWD:DK:TR:KW- 1&4:2025-26: 689 **Date: 28-05-2025.**

INVITATION FOR SHORT TERM TENDER (IFT)

The Executive Engineer, Public works Department Division Koppal invites tenders from the eligible tenderers as per standard bid documents KW-1&4 on **http://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** Portal. **Head of Account: KKRDB GDQ-SCP/2023-24, KKRDB Macro Infrastructure – General/2024-25, KKRDB Micro Institutional-Others General/2024-25 & 3054-04-337-1-05-200 (Non Plan) SH Road Annual Maintenance/2024-25.**. Two cover Tender procedure as per Rule 28 of the KTPP Act shall be followed. For more information the contractor can contact the under signed during office hours on Phone No. 08539 – 222318 and all informations regarding tenders can be had from website **http://kppp.karnataka.gov.in.** 4 Works (Work Indent No: 21759, 21689, 21571 & 18761/CALL-4). Last Date & Time for receipt of tenders **09-06-2025 Time 16.00,** Date and Time for opening of Technical Bid **10-06-2025 Time 16.30** (Work Indent No: 21759, 21689, 21571). Date and Time for opening of Financial Bid **10-06-2025 Time 16.30** (Work Indent No: 18761/CALL-4)**.** Date and Time for opening of Financial Bid **13-06-2025 Time 16.00** (Work Indent No: 21759, 21689, 21571)**.** Minimum & Estimate Maximum Amount Rs. 10.00 Lakhs & Rs. 380.00 Lakhs respectively. The tender documents can be downloaded from the above website address, EMD, Date & Time for Pre-bid meeting, Tender Queries/Clarification & Other information as mentioned in KPPP Portal. Any changes either in tender date or any other condition tenderers can view in KPPP portal.

DIPR/Koppal/122/KSMCA/2025-26 **Sd/- EE, PWD Division, Koppal**

MAHATRANSCO

Maharashtra State Electricity Transmission Co. Ltd.

INVITATION FOR BID (IFB) (LOCAL COMPETITIVE BIDDING)

SRM e-Tender No. T-2524/MSETCL/CO/Projects/Pre-Tender (RFx No. 6000001361)

MSETCL invites offers by SRM e-tendering in TWO bid system (Techno-Commercial Bid and Price Bid) from the eligible registered bidders for the following work as detailed below.

"Establishment of 132/33 kV Deori substation Dist. Gondia along with LILO on 132kV Gondia - Amgaon (Ckt-II) line (40.384 km) on turnkey basis under Nagpur Zone."

Interested bidders may obtain further information available on the website. https://srmetender.mahatransco.in

The date of downloading of Bid documents available on the website is from 27.05.2025.

Sd/-
Chief Engineer (Projects), MSETCL

JODHPUR VIDYUT VITARAN NIGAM LIMITED, JODHPUR

Corporate Identity Number (CIN) –U40109RJ2000SGC016483
Regd. Office: New Power House, Jodhpur- 342003
Phone No: 0291- 2742264
E-mail: seciviljdvvnl@gmail.com Web site: http://energy.rajasthan.gov.in/jdvvnl

NIT NO. 04/2025-26

"A" and 'AA' category in Central/State Government departments and JVVNL. Online tenders are invited through e-procurement process for various civil construction works under Jodhpur (9413359193)/ Barmer (9413359455)/ Bikaner (9413359744) from registered tenderers. Details of work, estimated cost, tender fee, process fee, security deposit, date of tender opening and general contract conditions etc. are available on websites http://energy.rajasthan.gov.in/jdvvnl and http://sppp. Available onz raj.gov.in and http://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in. Intimation of future amendments/period extension, if any http://energy.rajasthan.gov.in/jdvvnl And http://sppp.raj.gov.in.co Will be published on http://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in.

UBN NO.

JVV2526WSOB00193	JVV2526WSOB00194	JVV2526WSOB00139	JVV2526WSOB00140
JVV2526WSOB00141	JVV2526WSOB00142	JVV2526WSOB00143	JVV2526WSOB00144
JVV2526WSOB00145	JVV2526WSOB00146	JVV2526WSOB00131	JVV2526WSOB00148
JVV2526WSOB00149	JVV2526WSOB00150	JVV2526WSOB00151	JVV2526WSOB00152
JVV2526WSOB00153	JVV2526WSOB00154	JVV2526WSOB00155	JVV2526WSOB00156
JVV2526WSOB00157	JVV2526WSOB00158	JVV2526WSOB00159	JVV2526WSOB00160
JVV2526WSOB00161	JVV2526WSOB00162	JVV2526WSOB00163	JVV2526WSOB00164
JVV2526WSOB00178	JVV2526WSOB00180	JVV2526WSOB00181	JVV2526WSOB00182
JVV2526WSOB00183	JVV2526WSOB00184	JVV2526WSOB00185	JVV2526WSOB00186
JVV2526WSOB00187	JVV2526WSOB00188	JVV2526WSOB00189	JVV2526WSOB00190
JVV2526WSOB00127	JVV2526WSOB00126	JVV2526WSOB00147	JVV2526WSOB00128
JVV2526WSOB00129	JVV2526WSOB00130	JVV2526WSOB00124	JVV2526WSOB00167
JVV2526WSOB00131	JVV2526WSOB00170	JVV2526WSOB00169	JVV2526WSOB00168
JVV2526WSOB00123	JVV2526WSOB00120	JVV2526WSOB00164	JVV2526WSOB00166
JVV2526WSOB00171	JVV2526WSOB00172	JVV2526WSOB00173	JVV2526WSOB00174
JVV2526WSOB00175	JVV2526WSOB00176	JVV2526WSOB00177	JVV2526WSOB00198
JVV2526WSOB00199	JVV2526WSOB00201	JVV2526WSOB00202	JVV2526WSOB00204
JVV2526WSOB00203	JVV2526WSOB00197	JVV2526WSOB00195	JVV2526WSOB00200
JVV2526WSOB00179	JVV2526WSOB00197		

SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER (CIVIL)

राज.संवाद/सी/25/3266 बिजली शिकायतों के लिए टोल फ्री नम्बर– 1800–180–6045

BENGALURU METROPOLITAN TRANSPORT CORPORATION

Central Offices: K.H. Road, Shantinagar, Bengaluru-560 027.

No: BMTC/CO/COSP/TENDER/03/2025-26 Date: 29.05.2025

NOTICE INVITING TENDER

BMTC Invites Tender for Procurement of the following Goods & Services through KPP Portal:

Sl. No.	Tender No.	Description	Last date for bid submission in KPP Portal
Regular Tender			
1	BMTC/2024-25/ IND0177/**CALL-2**	Printing & Supply of public passes.	18-06-2025 at 17:00 Hrs
2	BMTC/2025-26/ SE0880	Engaging an agency for Providing Call Centre services.	30-06-2025 at 17:00 Hrs
3	BMTC/2025-26/ IND179	Procurement of Water Pump and parts.	18-06-2025 at 17:00 Hrs
4	BMTC/2025-26/ IND191	Procurement of Automotive Greases.	30-06-2025 at 17:00 Hrs
5	BMTC/2025-26/ IND192	Procurement of Hubs and Brake Drums	30-06-2025 at 17:00 Hrs
6	BMTC/2025-26/ IND193	Procurement of MS Angle and MS Flats	18-06-2025 at 17:00 Hrs

The above mentioned tender details can be obtained from **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in.** Further, any addendum/corrigendum in respect of change in calendar of events, specification, other tender terms and conditions etc. will be uploaded /published through kpp-portal only.

Note: Interested Bidders need to register in the e-procurement portal. For further information Log on to **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in**. In case of further assistance, contact e-procurement cell phone No: 080-2230960, 080-22234115, may also contact e-procurement for training on bid submission. Mail to **support@eprochelppdesk.com** for further information required.

Sd/- CONTROLLER OF STORES AND PURCHASES (Tender Inviting Authority)

IN THE LIMELIGHT

The city of Chennai's vanishing role in Tamil cinema

Since the '60s and '70s, Tamil filmmakers have found fascinating ways to celebrate Chennai on celluloid. However, in the last five years, filmmakers have largely refrained from using the city as a storytelling instrument

Bhuvanesh Chandar

In *Super Deluxe*, Thiagarajan Kumaraja walks us through narrow lanes of a city, with dry walls guarding frames tinged with saturated hues. As it is, there's nothing flashy that indicates the setting is Chennai (the film was set and shot in the city), but the filmmaker held a fascinatingly hyperreal lens on the city, showing us an urban landscape one is familiar with, but in a world only imagined. Cities have distinct energies, a sense of controlled chaos that only cinema comes close to simulating. How Chennai has evolved on celluloid is a storied exploration with some compelling patterns.

In the 1970s, Chennai was regularly featured in anti-urban narratives that portrayed cities as pockets of debauchery, a foreign land that preys upon the ignorant newcomer. Before K. Balachander critiqued the regressive norms of rural India, he made *Pattina Pravesam* in 1977, in which a family from a village endured extreme hardships in Chennai, forcing them to return. Though setting a serial killer story like *Sigappu Rojakkal* in the city points to a similar mindset from Bharathiraaja, his *Nizhalgal* spoke about youths moving to Chennai to fulfil their lofty dreams. Kamal Haasan's *Mahanadhi* (1994) also hinted that perhaps the family wouldn't have faced such unspeakable miseries had they stayed back in their village. Even comedian Vivekh, who has sung praises of the city, showed this perspective in 2002's *Run*, where his character gets creatively swindled of all his belongings upon landing in Chennai.

The early 2000s were an interesting period in how films continued balancing these perceptions with fresher takes. Where *Alaipayuthey*, *Enakku 20 Unakku 18*, *Priyamaana Thozhi*, *Minnale*, and *7G Rainbow Colony* embraced modern urban life, Chennai became the capital of crime in films like *Thirupaachi* and *Dhool*. Similar was the case with Saran's *Amarkalam* and *Gemini*, set in north Madras. The 2000s was also the time when more non-native residents of Chennai started to reap the benefits of the IT boom, and films began reflecting this. *Autograph* wasn't set in Chennai, but it spoke of a man who found prosperity in the city, looking back at his roots. Ram's *Kattradhu Thamizh* is arguably the loudest critique of gentrification, Western lifestyle, and the anglicisation from Silicon Valley. While all the above films have Chennai in the backdrop, in *Kattradhu Thamizh*, Chennai becomes a character by itself. In the film, Chennai turns the protagonist into a sociopath.

The city was also intrinsic in how Venkat Prabhu captured the frenzy of street cricket, the carefree lives of youngsters, and how they dealt with new-age problems in *Chennai 600028*. That film, along with *7G Rainbow Colony* – and later, *Madras*, *Idharkuthane Aasaipattai Balakumara*, *Kodiyil Oruvan* and *Maaveeran* – were films that depicted lives within housing boards and colonies. Going back to the 2000s, films weren't just painting Chennai as a city of hope; in *Angadi Theru*, Vasanthabalan, a staunch critic of urban life, made a persuasive case by showing the heart-wrenching ordeals that happen behind the curtains

A still from 'Angadi Theru'. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

of an activity most Chennaiites must relate to – shopping in T. Nagar.

Of Vetri Maarans and Pa Ranjiths

Angadi Theru also pointed towards the rise of an almost neo-realistic, hyperlocal approach to filmmaking in the 2010s – ushered by the likes of Thiagarajan Kumararaja, Vetri Maaran and Pa Ranjith – where the city isn't just a concrete shelter for the protagonists, but a thriving socio-political organism that houses millions. You cannot take Chennai out of *Aaranya Kaandam*, *Madras*, *Metro*, *Vada Chennai*, or *Maanagaram*. Most of these films, especially those of Vetri Maaran, indeed fall in line with themes that stereotyped north Madras as a land of crime – a stigma many residents know to have real-life effects.

But a silver lining did emerge. These stories weren't interested in single-mindedly exposing the darkness of the underworld; they had characters, black, grey, and white, somehow interacting with the crime lords and local politicians due to circumstances or socio-economic factors. This is why you wouldn't mind climbing a water tank with Anbu from *Vada Chennai* rather than hanging out with Kokki Kumar in *Pudhupettai*. Further, the likes of *Oram Po*, *Kaakka Muttai*, *Sarpatta Parambarai*, and *Iruddhi Suttru* managed to break the stereotype surrounding Chennai north of the Cooum – an ever-fascinating region rich in history, culture and art.

There's yet another angle to look at when it comes to Chennai's representation in films – in how the city was shown in songs rather than scenes.

A musical heritage walk

Chennai is a never-ending open concert enlivened by the likes of T.M. Soundarrajan, M.S. Viswanathan, Ilaiyaraaja, A.R. Rahman, Yuvan Shankar Raja, Anirudh Ravichander and Sean Roldan. So it's only befitting that we find the most memorable depiction of the city in the visuals of songs.

Somehow, 'Madrasai Suthi Paaka Poren' from 1994's *May Madham* comes to mind instantly, but it's quite something to revisit the old Madras in older songs. It seems song sequences were a great opportunity for the characters and the audiences to get some air and respite from the studio sets, and what better place to do that than Marina Beach? It feels surreal to watch 'Nenjirukkum Engalukku' from *Nenjirukkum Varai*, in which Sivaji Ganesan, R. Muthuraman and V. Gopalakrishnan walk and dance on a Kamarajar Promenade we can no longer recognise. If you thought hitting the beach to shake away the blues is a modern trend, watch Gemini Ganesan walk and sing 'Manidhan Enbavan Mirugamagalam' in *Sumaithangi*. Or when he takes his squad to the beach in a car in 'Naalai Naam' from *Punnagai*. Songs like 'Enna Paarvai' from *Kadhalikka Neramillai* and 'Nee Ketal Naan Maatenendru' from *Ilamai Oonjal Aadukirathu* turned the gardens of Marina into Eden.

When it comes to showing other parts of Chennai, 'Madras Nalla Madras' from *Anubavi Raja Anubavi* is often cited as an example. But listen to the lyrics and you will realise it is anything but a tribute. Interestingly, the song that features the maximum number of heritage sites, as pointed out by heritage activist Sriram V, is 'Azhagiya Mithilai Nagariniley' from the movie *Annai*.

On shooting in real locations

Over the years, however, fewer and fewer songs were shot in live locations in Chennai. Managing the crowd of eager onlookers rendered shooting films featuring popular stars in real locations impossible, which is why you might find many songs, like 'Nenjam Undu Nermai Undu' and 'En Kanmani En Kadhali', have actors perform in front of a screen.

While the '90s and early 2000s had films like *Kadhal Kottai* and *Kadhal Desam* that were shot in popular locations in Chennai, in the mid-2000s, the Tamil Nadu government's restrictions on shooting films in public locations prompted filmmakers to shoot in studios or outside Chennai or move to suburban locations where getting permissions was easier. Still, even then, there were exceptions to this, like 'O Ringa Ringa' from *7 Aum Arivu*, a 2011 Suriya-starrer that was somehow shot in the congested Ranganathan Street in T. Nagar. Fascinatingly, despite these restrictions, the 2010s saw many small and mid-budget films – such as *Onaayum Aattukkuttiyum*, *Chennaiyil Oru Naal*, *Goli Soda*, *Vadacurry*, *Vathikuchi*, *Meyaadha Maan*, *8 Thottakkal*, *Irumbu Thirai*, *Sillu Karuppatti*, *Maanagaram* and others – that were shot in real locations and had intriguing takes on the city, perhaps as a result of a certain drive towards realism among the younger crop of filmmakers who made their way to the fore by making short films or small features that couldn't afford a studio.

Chennai has featured in more than a dozen Tamil films since 2023, but never as a character by itself. Films still establish the city with a shot of the Kathipara flyover or the Central station, but the city never becomes central to storytelling. Prashanth, Shaam, Attakathi Dinesh and Shakthi Vasudevan no longer climb onto MTC buses; only in *Blue Star*, a film set in Arakkonam, not Chennai, romance blooms in a local train. The autorickshaw drivers and passengers are now involved in discussions too different from what Rajinikanth sang about in 1995. The Central railway station we see in films no longer lets a woman find her mystery lover wearing a rose-knit sweater. Interestingly, only Bharathiraaja appears as an exception here, as he tells the story of a married man falling in love with a woman he meets on the Metro train in *Modern Love: Chennai*.

The current crop of Tamil filmmakers have largely refrained from romanticising Chennai, but even sobering explorations of a lifestyle, community, or neighbourhoods are few and far between. Except for films like Ram's *Taramani* or *Chennai 600028* (must one add *Demonte Colony*?), even films that carry a specific neighbourhood as the title – *Kodambakkam*, *Nungambakkam*, *Kizhakku Kadarkarai Salai*, and so on – do not tell a memorable story rooted in their milieu.

And yet, you would still find youngsters romanticising the city on social media, and aspiring filmmakers in their short films. So while this may not be the season for Chennai, on screen and in IPL, this city was never known for invincibility. This is, after all, the kingdom of Rajinikanth, an actor who became a superstar by turning the rising-from-the-ashes arc into his signature style in commercial cinema.

FROM THE ARCHIVES

Know Your English

K. Subrahmanian
S. Upendran

"I found a spelling mistake on the very first page of this book."

"Books that come out these days have lots of spelling mistakes in them. What's the mistake you found?"

"On the top of the page, the word ' 'forward' has been spelt f..o.r..e..w..o..r...d."

"That's not a mistake.''

"What? Shouldn't it be spelt f.o.r.w.a.r.d?"

"No, it shouldn't. F.o.r.e.w.o.r.d and f.o.r.w.a.r.d are pronounced the same way, but they are two different words. They have a totally different meaning. A 'foreword' is an introduction to a book by the author or by someone else."

"An introduction to a book! You mean it has nothing to do with moving forward?"

"No, it doesn't. Here's an example. In the foreword, the author explains the aim of the book."

"Can I say, the author wanted the President of India to write the foreword to his book?"

"Certainly, In fact, that's what many first time authors try to do. They try to get somebody famous to write the foreword to their book."

"I suppose they think they can sell more books that way."

"You suppose right. Are you .preparing for your exams?"

"I'm trying to. I find it difficult to study in the evenings. I study in the night."

"I study 'at' night, not 'in' the night. You don't say 'in the night'."

"Wait a minute! I can say 'in the evening, can't I? Why can't I..."

"....these are fixed expressions. You say 'in the morning', 'in the afternoon', 'in the evening', but 'at night'."

"They do? I didn't know that! I know that many students study at night."

"I prefer to study in the morning. I like to watch TV at night."

"I used to watch at night. Because of the coming exams, I no more watch TV."

"I no longer watch TV, not 'no more watch TV'."

"But why can't I say 'no more'?"

"Because 'no more' is not usually used to talk about time. You don't use it to mean 'once, but not now'. For example, you cannot say, Sandhya no more lives in Hyderabad. Instead, you'll have to say, Sandhya no longer lives in Hyderabad." .

"Can I say, Sandhya doesn't live in Hyderabad any more?"

"You can."

"Can I say, Sandhya lives in Hyderabad no longer."

'"No longer usually comes before the verb. I no longer smoke beedis."

"Geetha no longer plays the drums. Geetha doesn't play the drums anymore."

"Good examples. People no longer believe in politicians."

"That's true. But tell me, when do you use 'no more'."

"It's normally used to talk about quantity. For example, there are no more idlis left in the bowl."

Published in The Hindu on September 10, 1996.

THE DAILY QUIZ

Please send in your answers to dailyquiz@thehindu.co.in

The monsoon has come a week ahead of its scheduled arrival on the 1st of June. How well do you know the monsoon?

Radhika Santhanam

QUESTION 1
In which State does the south-west monsoon arrive first?

QUESTION 2
This region, which houses the longest sandstone cave in the world, also has the highest average rainfall. Name this village in the East Khasi Hills.

QUESTION 3
This mobile app, created to provide crop advisories to farmers based on weather information, is named after an epic poem. An operation of the same name was carried out by the Indian military against Pakistan in 1984 in the Siachen Glacier. Name the app.

QUESTION 4
If 10 cm of rainfall is received over a small area at a station in one hour, this phenomenon is called __. Mountainous regions are more prone to it than plains. Fill in the blank.

QUESTION 5
A flow of air originates near Mauritius and travels across Madagascar, Kenya, Ethiopia and finally Somalia, before crossing the Arabian Sea and reaching the Indian western coast. It attains maximum strength in July and gives rise to a strong monsoon in peninsular India. What is this flow of air called?

QUESTION 6
X was established in 1875 in Calcutta, a year after a disastrous cyclone struck there. Later its headquarters were shifted to Shimla, then to Poona (now Pune), and finally to New Delhi. Name X, which is cited in every newspaper report during the monsoon.

Visual question:
A comet and a research station in Antarctica are named after this astronomer and mathematician who published a treatise on the Indian monsoon. Name this man.

Questions and Answers to the previous day's daily quiz: 1. The significance of the phrase "Snow conditions bad stop advanced base abandoned yesterday stop awaiting improvement". **Ans: This was the coded message sent by *The Times'* journalist James Morris to announce the successful attempt.**
2. The primary route taken by Hillary and Tenzing to the summit. **Ans: The South Col route**
3. The two other flags Tenzing held aloft on the summit. **Ans: The Union Jack and United Nations flags**
4. The height at which the final camp was set up. **Ans: 25,900 feet (7,890 m)**
5. Name the two institutions that made up the Joint Himalayan Committee. **Ans: The Alpine Club and Royal Geographical Society**
6. The answer given by Hillary when asked why there was no picture of him atop Mt. Everest. **Ans: He said Tenzing did not know how use the camera and 29,000 feet was not the place to teach him!**
Visual: Name this person. **Ans: John Hunt, the leader of the 1953 expedition**
Early Bird: Tushit Pratap Singh

Word of the day

Bastion:
a group that defends a principle; a stronghold into which people could go for shelter during a battle; projecting part of a rampart or other fortification

Synonym: citadel

Usage: *This college was once the bastion of the privileged few.*

Pronunciation: newsth.live/bastionpro

International Phonetic Alphabet: /'bæsti.ən/

For feedback and suggestions for Text & Context, please write to **letters@thehindu.co.in** with the subject 'Text & Context'

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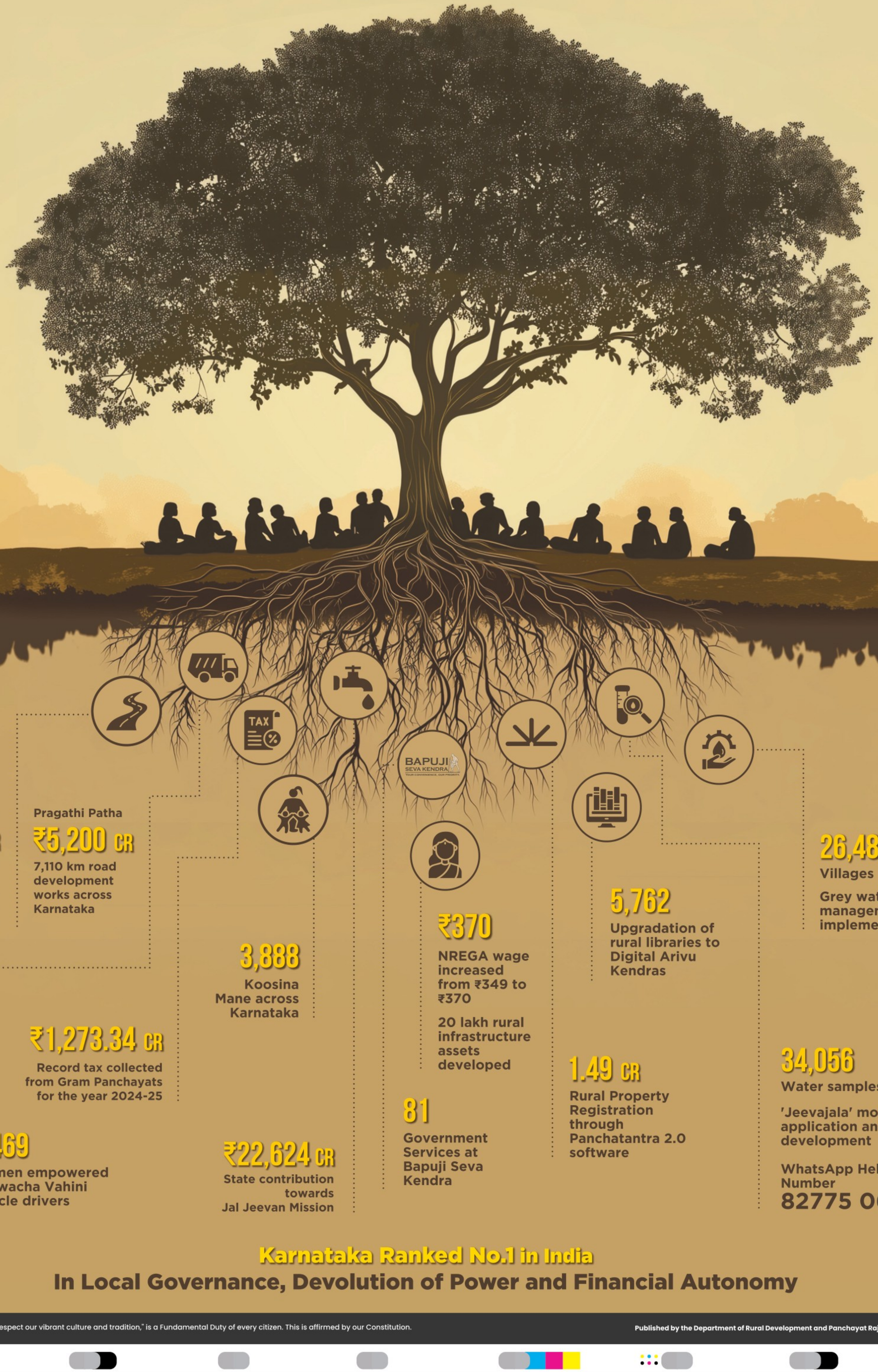

Kalyana Patha
₹1,000 CR
1,150 km road development works in Kalyana Karnataka

Pragathi Patha
₹5,200 CR
7,110 km road development works across Karnataka

3,888
Koosina Mane across Karnataka

₹1,273.34 CR
Record tax collected from Gram Panchayats for the year 2024-25

3,469
Women empowered as Swacha Vahini vehicle drivers

₹22,624 CR
State contribution towards Jal Jeevan Mission

₹370
NREGA wage increased from ₹349 to ₹370

20 lakh rural infrastructure assets developed

81
Government Services at Bapuji Seva Kendra

5,762
Upgradation of rural libraries to Digital Arivu Kendras

1.49 CR
Rural Property Registration through Panchatantra 2.0 software

26,484
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Published by the Department of Rural Development and Panchayat Raj Commissionerate

A BG-BGE

In focus: According to an estimate, there are around 45,000 pre-schools across Karnataka, out of which about 20,000 are integrated pre-schools in government and private schools, permitted by the DSEL. FILE PHOTO

Taking baby steps to regulate pre-schools

The Department of School Education and Literacy, earlier this week, issued an order making registration mandatory for all newly started pre-schools in Karnataka. But stakeholders tell **Jayanth R.** that more needs to be done to regulate such institutions in the interest of children's education and safety

Exactly how many pre-schools are there in Karnataka? The Department of School Education and Literacy (DSEL) has no accurate answer to this question, thanks to the fact that there has so far been no system in place for registering all pre-schools in the State.

A lack of separate rules and regulations or a consistent monitoring system has led to the mushrooming of private pre-schools or early childhood care education centres across Karnataka.

While pre-schools running as part of government and private schools are obtaining permission from the DSEL, most standalone pre-schools are operating without any approval. In addition, most of those run by corporates as franchise schools and pre-schools too are operating without a monitoring mechanism.

There have been allegations that the government or the DSEL has no control over pre-schools, and parents are being exploited by way of exorbitant fees, expensive textbooks, etc. In addition, questions have been raised about the safety and protection of children.

Now, for the first time, the Karnataka government has taken steps to register all types of pre-primary schools, including play homes, Montessori, and nurseries, with objectives including child safety and streamlining of private pre-schools.

What the order says

The DSEL issued an order on May 27, 2025, stating that, as per the Karnataka Educational Institutions (Classification and Registration) Rules, 1997, pre-primary education means non-formal education below the first standard for children between the ages of three and five, whether called play homes, Montessori, nursery, etc. The department stated in the order that all "newly started" pre-schools must be registered compulsorily.

Trusts and school managements have been allowed to apply before starting new private unaided pre-primary schools through the newly developed online module on the Student Achievement Tracking System (SATS) portal.

Criteria adopted for registration to start a new private unaided pre-primary school include having a building with a carpet area of one square metre per student, subject to a minimum of 2,000 sq. ft, preferably on the ground floor with a playground, either owned or taken on lease for at least 30 years. In addition, the order states that a building fitness certificate and fire safety clearance certificates should be obtained from the competent authority. Physical safety (infrastructure, health, and transportation), personal and sexual safety, and social and emotional safety should be ensured.

"From this year, registration of all pre-schools has been made mandatory. This order has been sent to all district- and taluk-level officers, who have been instructed to register all types of pre-schools in their jurisdiction. Till now, there were no regulations in the department regarding the registration of pre-schools. We also developed a separate module on the SATS portal for pre-schools to register, and it is mandatory for all new pre-schools to register," says K.V. Trilokchandra, Commissioner, Department of Public Instruction.

The Central Board of Secondary Education has made registration of pre-schools under its jurisdiction mandatory from this academic year.

> There is a rule that pre-schools should be started only on the ground floor of a building for the safety of children. However, many standalone pre-schools are functioning on the upper floors.
>
> **B.N. YOGANANDA,** president of the Parents Association

No clarity on numbers

According to an estimate, there are around 45,000 pre-schools across the State, out of which about 20,000 are integrated pre-schools in government and private schools, permitted by the DSEL. However, the department does not have information about the number of standalone pre-schools, including those run as part of franchise chains. Though some standalone pre-schools are run after obtaining permission from the DSEL, the department is not monitoring them in any way, once permitted.

Now, although the government has made registration mandatory for new pre-schools starting from 2025-26, there is no clarity on whether these rules apply to existing schools.

There is now a demand from parents, educationists, and other stakeholders to issue comprehensive regulations or standard operating procedures (SOPs) applicable to all pre-schools across the State for the safety of children.

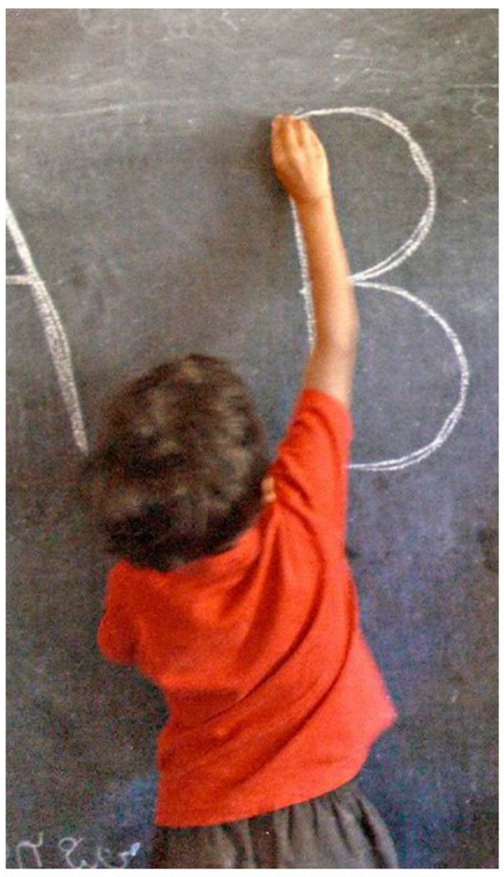
What are the demands

Stakeholders point out that many aspects, including fees, are arbitrary in pre-schools. Although the government has no control over fee fixation in private schools, the rules allow for the regulation of a fee increase of only 10% to 12% a year. In addition, the details of the fees charged by private schools have to be published on the notice board.

Although the government has made registration mandatory for new pre-schools starting from 2025-26, there is no clarity on whether these rules apply to existing schools. FILE PHOTO

However, since none of these rules apply to pre-schools, a modest private pre-school in tier-1 cities like Bengaluru charges ₹30,000 to ₹50,000 per student a year. There are even instances of big private schools charging ₹1 lakh to ₹1.5 lakh a year for pre-school admission.

"Pre-schools have become a big business now, and they charge more than regular schools. Private pre-schools charge huge fees in the name of uniforms, textbooks, and other things. If parents question this, schools tell them to enrol their children elsewhere. That's why the government should bring in fee regulation for private pre-schools," said Tanuja M., mother of a pre-school child and a bank employee in Bengaluru.



As per rules, there should be no fixed curriculum in pre-schools. Children should have a play-based method of learning, according to V.P. Niranjanaradhya, development educationist. FILE PHOTO

Safety of children and the absence of a child-friendly atmosphere are also a concern, as many of the standalone pre-schools in the State are being run in residential houses and commercial complexes without any safety measures.

"There is a rule that pre-schools should be started only on the ground floor of a building for the safety of children. However, many standalone pre-schools are functioning on the upper floors. Despite several complaints to the Education Department in this regard, nothing has changed. If any accident occurs, who is responsible?" asks B.N. Yogananda, president of the Parents Association.

No uniform curriculum

Another issue often flagged is the absence of a uniform curriculum in pre-schools. Earlier, the State government had implemented the 'Chili-Pili' curriculum in the pre-schools under its jurisdiction and in those in anganwadi centres. It has now been updated as 'Chili Pili-Plus'. However, there is no uniform or single curriculum applicable to all pre-schools in the State.

"As per rules, there should be no fixed curriculum in pre-schools. Children should have a play-based method of learning. Children are taught to write right from the start in many pre-schools. But language learning includes listening, learning, speaking, reading, and finally writing. Imposing the writing method at the pre-school level will affect the learning of children. Therefore, the State government should take steps to implement a curriculum that is applicable to all pre-schools and is conducive to the overall development of children," says V.P. Niranjanaradhya, development educationist.

Age limit violation

Some pre-schools are also found to be enrolling children who are underage, violating the age criteria, leading to problems later when they join primary school.

As per the National Education Policy-2020, in July 2022, the DSEL made it mandatory for the completion of six years by June 1 for admission to class 1. Accordingly, the age for admission to Montessori was set at three years, for LKG at four years, and for UKG at five. However, as a temporary step, the department relaxed the six-year age cap for school enrolment for two years. According to that order, it was mandatory to follow the age rule from 2025-26. But, despite the order, most pre-schools continue to enrol children who are under the prescribed age. Buckling under pressure, the government recently postponed the implementation of the age limit rule for admission to class 1 to the next year.

SOP for pre-schools

"Child protection is a fundamental right in the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC). The UNCRC talks of children's survival rights, developmental rights, protection rights, and participation rights. In addition, according to Article 39(e) and (f) of the Indian Constitution, it is the responsibility of the State to raise children in a healthy and meaningful way. Even if the State does not run any institutions, it should formulate guidelines or SOPs for those who run institutions. There are no regulations related to the safety of children in pre-schools and protection from exploitation and discrimination. Therefore, in the interest of the protection of children, the Karnataka government should bring a comprehensive regulation or SOP for pre-schools," says Niranjanaradhya.

He points out that Section 11 of the Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education Act, 2009, focuses on pre-school education for children. It mandates that the government provide free pre-school education to children above the age of three to prepare them for elementary education and offer early childhood care and education until they turn six. "The Karnataka Education Act, 1983, has allowed the government to regulate all pre-schools, including government and private ones. Therefore, the State Education Policy that the Karnataka government intends to implement should at least make appropriate rules regarding the regulation and management of pre-schools," he says.

New regulation welcomed

Meanwhile, the Associated Managements of Schools in Karnataka (KAMS), an association of private school managements, has termed the order issued by the government on registration of pre-schools as a good start.

"Although the State government had issued an order on the registration of pre-schools in 2018, the department has not implemented it. Despite several appeals and protests, unauthorised pre-schools have continued to mushroom. Since there is no fee regulation, they are exploiting children and parents. In many places, there is not even a minimum infrastructure. Therefore, the government has made the registration of pre-primary schools mandatory from this year, which is a healthy development. From now on, all types of pre-schools in the State must be registered compulsorily. If they are not registered, they will be considered unauthorised. IDs will not be created in SATS for children in such pre-schools," says D. Shashikumar, general secretary of the KAMS.

Loaded with goodness Flavours from across the seven seas. SUDHAKARA JAIN AND SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Smash Guys open their first outlet in Indiranagar with peanut butter & bacon burgers and more

Get smashed

Anagha Maareesha
anagha.maareesha@thehindu.co.in

Post pandemic, there has been a new wave of burger establishments that have refined the dish and are trying to take it from fast food to an elevated experience. Smash Guys started with this aim. The brainchild of Nikhil and Abhijit Gupta and Adithya Kidambi as chef consultant, the brand began hosting pop-ups. Now they open their first outlet in Indiranagar.

The interiors are designed like an American-style diner with chequered floors, marquee signs and wooden furniture. I take a seat at the bar, getting a ringside view of the busy kitchen. a

"We wanted to bring world-class smash burgers to India. From the traditional Oklahoma onion smash and the OG cheeseburger, to our signature whopper and Elvis Presley's favourite peanut-butter-bacon burger, we are paying homage to burger styles that hold a piece of history," says Abhijit.

A smash burger is an American-style burger, made by cooking a smashed burger patty on a flattop grill at high heat. It is said that in the 1960s, a cook at a restaurant in Kentucky pressed a ground beef meatball to a thin crispy patty, and the smash burger was born.

Smash Guys offer burgers in buff and lamb options, veggie and chicken, sides, shakes and desserts. First, the sides. I see the classics – onion rings, fries, corn ribs, Caesar salad and wedges. I miss the days when burgers came with a side of fries, so I order them separately.

Now the burgers. The meatballs are cooked on a hot plancha (iron griddle). The edges are crispy, and the insides are juicy. The OG smash burger is made with a double patty, onions, cheese and mustard. The brisket burger has a buff patty that is topped with a slow cooked brisket.

Their veggie options are good too. The Korean fried paneer burger has flavours of gochujang and chimichurri. The magic mushroom burger is made with crisp oyster mushroom, pickles, lettuce, truffle oil, truffle mayo. Decadent. I pair my meal with a diner-style strawberry milkshake.

I end with the highly recommend Old Monk chocolate mousse.The hints of flavours from the rum elevate the dish, even for a non-Old Monk lover like me.

Cost for two ₹1,500. At Indiranagar. Call 8951757290

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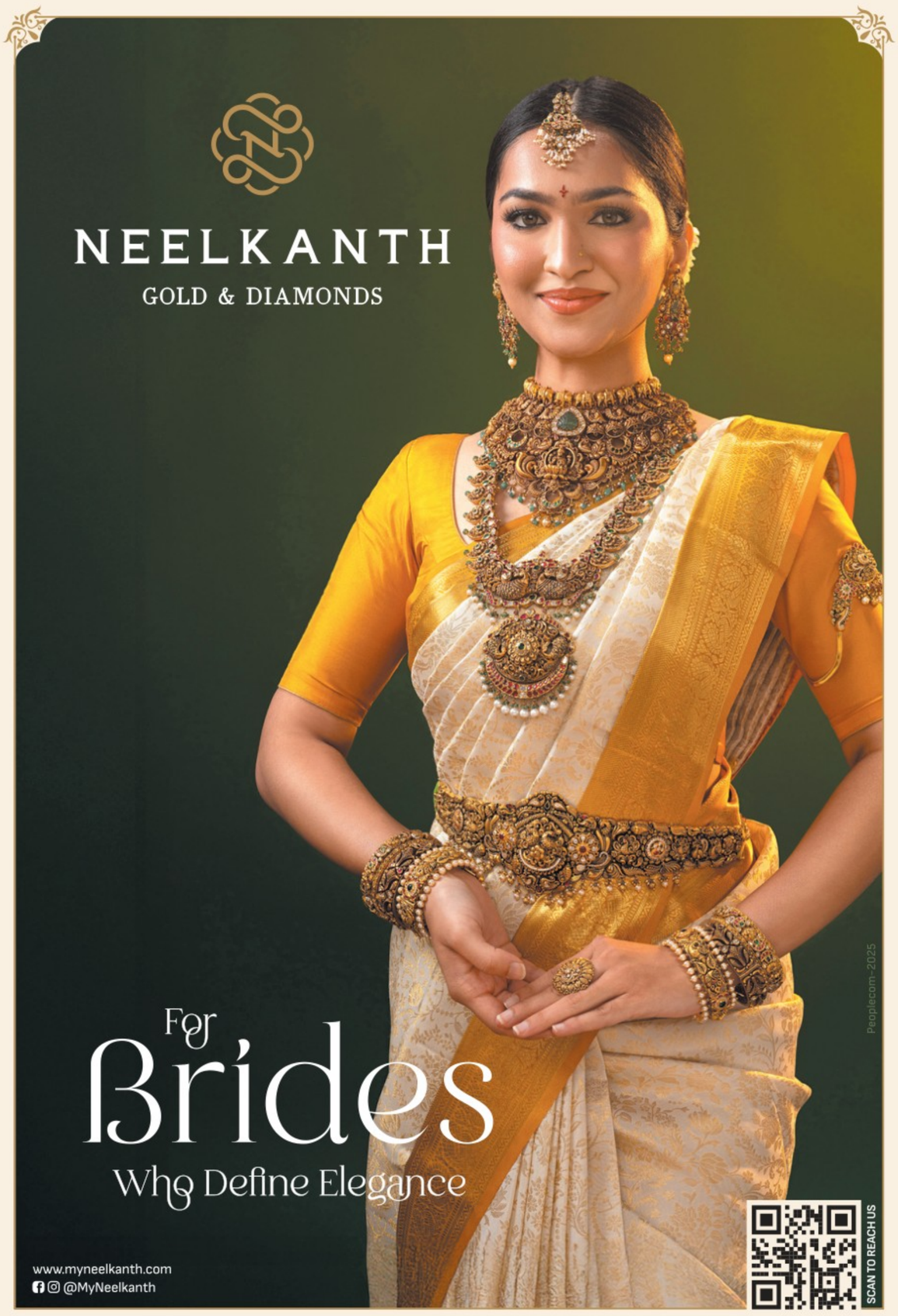

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KRS to breach 100-ft. mark for second time in 35 years during May

The Hindu Bureau
MYSURU

The reservoir level at the Krishnaraja Sagar (KRS) is set to hit the 100-ft. mark by Friday, thanks to early onset of southwest monsoon coupled with adequate storage in the reservoir due to good rains last year. The water level, which was 98 ft. at 8 a.m. on Thursday, was expected to cross the 99 ft. by late in the evening and attain the 100-ft. mark on Friday. In 2024, the reservoir attained the 100-ft. mark on July 5 and in 2023, on July 25.

The water level was 98 ft. at 8 a.m. on Thursday. FILE PHOTO

Favourable conditions

Sources in the Cauvery Neeravari Nigam Ltd (CNNL) confirmed that data since 1990 pertaining to storage levels indicate that the KRS reservoir has reached the 100-ft. mark in May only twice in the past 35 years – the previous instance being in May 2022, when unseasonal rains, combined with healthy storage from the preceding monsoon, created favourable inflow conditions that contributed to the rise. Officials note that the current storage position and early onset of monsoon has created conditions conducive for reservoir to reach the 100-ft. mark during May.

Though the monsoon has abated in Kodagu, places in and around Bhagamandala, which is the source of the river Cauvery, has been receiving incessant rains for the last five days. The region received 130.6 mm of rainfall during the 24-hour period ending 8.30 a.m. on Thursday.

It was preceded by 103.50 mm of rainfall on Wednesday, 112 mm on May 27, and 225 mm on May 26.

As a result, the inflow into the KRS continued to be high and was 22,788 cusecs on Thursday morning. The reservoir level has increased by 10 ft. in four days from May 25 when the water level in the dam was 89.12 ft. as against the full level of 124.80 ft. Even in case there was a break in monsoon and rains abate, the high rate of inflow will sustain for a few more days. The storage was 21.28 tmcft against the gross storage capacity of 49.45 tmcft.

At Kabini reservoir, the rate of inflow was 18,513 cusecs and the water level was 2,274.87 ft. as against the full level of 2,284 ft. The live storage in the reservoir was 14.20 tmcft as against the gross storage capacity of 19.52 tmcft.

Car driver booked for biting finger of another in road-rage incident

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Magadi Road police registered a case against a car driver for allegedly biting the finger of another in a road-rage incident in the city on Thursday.

According to the police, the incident occurred on Sunday night near Magadi Road, when the victim, Jayanth Shekar, was going home along with his wife and mother-in-law after having dinner.

The incident occurred when the victim was going home along with his wife and mother-in-law after having dinner

The accused, who was driving the car, allegedly stopped Shekar's car, dragged him out, and accused the latter of splashing water on his car. He then began assaulting the victim.

Shekar raised his hand to protect himself, following which the suspect purportedly bit his finger.

It was also alleged that another woman got out of the suspect's car and abused the victim and his family. Shekar was then taken to a hospital where he, as per the FIR, underwent a minor surgery on the bitten finger.

The Magadi Road police have opened a case, and further probe is under way, officials said.

PUBLIC NOTICE

This notice is issued on behalf of My client **Sri. Chikkathayappa.N.C s/o Chikkananjappa** to bring the notice of the general public that the Original General Power of Attorney, date.17.06.1987, executed by Sri.A.Chandran s/o late Ayyappan in favour of Mrs.Mahaboob Bee w/o Ameer Jan, to deal with schedule property. And Original Affidavit dated. 17.06.1987 sworn by **Sri.A.Chandran s/o late Ayyappan** are missing / lost / misplaced in respect of schedule property.

If any person/s, firm, company, institution or organization has any claim are holding the afore mentioned document or schedule property, they may contact the undersigned in writing within **7 days** from the date of this notice failing which it will be presumed that there are no claims.

SCHEDULE PROPERTY

All the piece and parcel of the immovable residential property bearing **Site Nos.15**, formed in Sy.No.59, situated at **Devasandra Village, Krishnarajapura Hobli, previously Bangaluru South Taluk now Bangalore East Taluk**, now comes under the Limits of BBMP, Bangalore, measuring East to West : **40 feet** and North to South **30 feet,** in all measuring **1200 Sq.Ft.,** and bounded on :

East by : Private Land, West by : Road, North by : Site No.14, South by : Site No.16.

H. Prahlada, Advocate & Solicitor,
For H.P.Law, #2, 3rd Floor, Venkateshwara Complex, Yeshwanthpur, Bangalore-560022
M : 7760061073

SOUTH WESTERN RAILWAY

E-Procurement (IREPS) Tender Notice No.: H-GS-UBL-01-2025-26

The undersigned, on behalf of the President of India, Invites E-Tenders (IREPS) for the following works:

Sl.No.	Name of work	Approx. Value
1	Request for proposal (RFP) for Appointment of Project Supervision Services Agency (PSSA) for various projects of Gati Shakti unit, Hubballi.	Rs. 5,52,66,120/-
	Last date for submission of bids: **Upto 11:00 Hrs. on 04.07.2025**	
2	Proposed Construction Trip Shed at Toranagallu along with associated General electrical, Electrical Traction and Signal & Telecom works (Composite work)	Rs. 16,76,47,919/-
	Last date for submission of bids: **Upto 11:00 Hrs. on 23.06.2025**	

For details log on: www.ireps.gov.in

Dy. Chief Engineer/Gati Shakti/ Hubballi

PUB/145/AAMO/PRB/SWR/2025-26

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South Western Railway - SWR | SWRRLY | SWRRLY

THE KARUR VYSYA BANK LTD
ASSET RECOVERY BRANCH
Divisional Office Building, No.6, Shri Vasavi Temple Road, Near Sajjan Rao Circle, V V Puram, Bangalore, Karnataka-560004.

SALE NOTICE FOR SALE OF IMMOVABLE PROPERTIES

E-Auction Sale Notice for Sale of Immovable Assets under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with proviso to Rule 8 (6) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002.

Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower (s) and Guarantor (s) that the below described immovable property mortgaged/ charged to the Secured Creditor, **The Karur Vysya Bank Ltd,** the constructive/ physical (whichever is applicable) possession of which has been taken by the Authorised Officer of **The Karur Vysya Bank Ltd.,** Secured Creditor, will be sold on **"As is where is", "As is what is", and "Whatever there is"** on **18.06.2025, for recovery of Rs. 59,99,771.81** (Rupees Fifty Nine Lakhs Ninety Nine Thousand Seven Hundred Seventy One and Paisa Eight One only) due to **"The Karur Vysya Bank Ltd",** Secured Creditor from **Mr. T R Abhishek** S/o Mr. V M Rudramurthy, Residing at No.36, 4th Block, Nagarbhavi 2nd Stage, Behind SBI Bank, Malagala Main Road, Bangalore-560091. The reserve price will be **Rs.18,00,000/- (Rupees Eighteen Lakhs Only) and the Earnest Money Deposit will be Rs.1,80,000/- (Rupees One Lakhs Eighty Thousand Only).**

Description Of The Immovable Property: All that piece and parcel of Residential Flat Bearing No. 402 in 4th Floor, (2BHK) at "Miyans Green Residency" Celebrity Lake View carved out in S.No. 56,72,73/2, 74/1 and 74/2 property No. 150200103200201171/240/112 and 150200103200201172/240/113, Site No.112 &113, present Henagara Grama Panchayat Certificate No. 7012796 situated at "Celebrity Lake View" of Rajapura Village, Jigani Hobli, Anekal Taluk, Bangalore- 560 102. Total site extent 5200.00 Sq.ft, super Built-up area of 1018 Sq.ft having 203 Sq.ft of Undivided share and Bounded on: East by Corridor, West by: Set Back, North by: Flat No.401, South by: Flat No.403.

For detailed terms and conditions of the sale, please refer to the link provided in our Bank's/Secured Creditor's website i.e., **www.kvb.co.in/Property Under Auction also at the web portal BankAuctions.in/ForeclosureIndia.com** of the service provider, **M/s. 4 closure.**

STATUTORY 15 DAYS' NOTICE UNDER RULE 9(1) OF THE SARFAESI ACT, 2002

The borrower/s and guarantor/s are hereby notified to pay the dues as mentioned above along with up to date interest and ancillary expenses before the date of e-Auction, failing which the Schedule property will be auctioned/sold and balance dues, if any, will be recovered with interest and cost.

Date : 28.05.2025
Place: Bangalore

Sd/- Authorized Officer
THE KARUR VYSYA BANK LIMITED

PUBLIC NOTICE

Public are hereby informed that my clients **1.Mr.SANTHOSH KUMAR.M,** Aged about 35 Years, S/o.Mr.Munikrishnappa, **2. Mr. TEJAS KUMAR.M,** Aged about 31 Years, S/o.Mr.Munikrishnappa, Both are Residing at: No. 508, 6th A Cross, Happy Garden Layout, Kurudusonnenahalli Main Road, K.R Puram, Bangalore-560049, intend to purchase with its owner **M/s JP INFRA,** Partnership firm having its office at Flat No.401, JP Alfa Apartment, Alpha Garden, 1st Cross Kodigehalli main Road, Ayyappanagar, K.R.Puram, Bangalore-560036, Represented its Partners, in respect of the schedule property which is more fully described in the schedule given below. If any persons claiming or objections or rights with regard to the Schedule Property they are required to send the same with documentary evidence within **Seven (7) days** from the date of this Public Notice hereof my client shall be at liberty to proceed with the Registration of the sale deed if there is no any claims or objection in the regard to the Schedule Property within the stipulated time.

SCHEDULE PROPERTY

All that piece and parcel of **Site No.37,** Khatha No.311, Formed out of Property No.4/1 Old Property No.4, Situated at **Seegehalli Village, K.R.Puram Hobli, Bangalore East Taluk, Banaglore Urban District,** Now comes under the jurisdiction of Bruhat Bangalore Mahanagara Palike, Ward No.53, Measuring East to West **50 Feet** and North to South **(911/2 +90)/2** Feet in total Measuring **4537.5 Square Feet,** together with all appurtenances whatsoever whether underneath or above the surface and bounded on:-

East by : Site No.38,
West by : Site No.36,
North by : Site No.26,
South by : Road,

T. RAMESH KUMAR
MANJULA RAMESH, Advocates
No.1, Alisa Arcade, Near Vijaya Bank, Old Madras Road, K.R. Puram, Bengaluru-560036. Phone : 9845601026
Place : Bengaluru Date : 29-05-2025

PEGASUS ASSETS RECONSTRUCTION PRIVATE LIMITED
55-56, 5th Floor, Free Press House, Nariman Point
Mumbai - 400 021. Tel:- 022 61884700
Email:sys@pegasus-arc.com URL: www.pegasus-arc.com

PUBLIC NOTICE FOR SALE BY E-AUCTION

Sale of Immovable Properties under the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with Rule 8 and 9 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002.

Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower, Co-Borrowers, Guarantors and Mortgagors that the below described secured assets mortgaged to the Secured Creditor, being **Pegasus Assets Reconstruction Private Limited acting in its capacity as Trustee of Pegasus Group 38 Trust- I** (Pegasus), having being assigned the dues of the below mentioned borrower along with underlying securities, interest by **L&T Housing Finance Limited vide Assignment Agreement dated 31/12/2020** under the provisions of SARFAESI Act,2002.

The Authorized officer of Pegasus has taken physical possession of the below mentioned mortgaged property on **22/05/2023** under the provisions of the SARFAESI Act and SARFAESI Rules. In view of the aforesaid the below mentioned mortgaged property will be sold on **"As is where is", "As is what is", and "Whatever there is"** basis on **15/05/2025** for recovery of **Rs. 5,48,78,768.30 /- (Rupees Five Crore Forty-Eight Lakh Seventy-Eight Thousand Seven Hundred Sixty-Eight and Paise Thirty Only) as on 29/05/2025** together with further interest, costs, charges and expenses thereon w.e.f. 30/05/2025 due to the Pegasus, from Mr. Sumanth Ramanna (Borrower), Mrs. Harini Kumari KS (Co-Borrowers) and Mr. Munigowrappa Ramanna (Co-Borrower & Mortgagor). The reserve price is as mentioned below.

Description of Immovable Property which is being sold:

Name of Co-Borrower:	Mr. Sumanth Ramanna
Names of Co-Borrowers / Guarantors/ Mortgagor:	1.Mrs. Harini Kumari KS 2. Mr. Munigowrappa Ramanna
Outstanding Dues	Rs. 5,48,78,768.30 /- (Rupees Five Crore Forty-Eight Lakh Seventy-Eight Thousand Seven Hundred Sixty-Eight and Paise Thirty Only) as on 29/05/2025 together with further interest, costs, charges and expenses thereon w.e.f. 30/05/2025

Description of Immovable Property:

Description of property	Reserve Price below which the property will not be sold in Rs.	Earnest Money Deposit (EMD) in Rs.
Exclusive charge: Factory Premises with building and amenities Bearing Nos. 64, 65, 66, 67 & 68, Katha No. 54, Vasanthapura Village, Uttarahalli Hobli, Bangalore South Taluk, Bangalore 560078, Area of the land is 9000 Square feet and bounded by: East: Road, West: Private Property, North: Road, South: Private Property. Owned by Mr. Munigowrappa Ramanna	4,09,50,000.00	40,95,000.00
	4,09,50,000.00	**40,95,000.00**
Claims, if any, which have been put forward against the property and any other dues known to Secured creditor and value	A notice has been affixed to the property by Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) claiming pending charges. The buyer needs to ascertain the same prior to submission of the bid and such charges shall be borne by the buyer.	
CERSAI ID:	Security Interest ID: 400023196176 Asset ID: 200023146356	
Inspection of Properties	05/06/2025	
Contact Person and Phone No.	1) Bhaskar Sarat Turaga Mobile No: 9082107302 2) Shankar Balasubramanian Mobile No: 8056176876 3) Vivek Arayakat Mobile No: 9962229858	
Last date for submission of Bid:	13/06/2025 till 4:00 pm	
Time and Venue of Bid Opening	E-Auction/Bidding through website (https://sarfaesi.auctiontiger.net) on 16/06/2025 from 10.00 AM to 11:00 AM.	

This publication is also a 15-day notice to the aforementioned Borrower/Co-Borrowers/Guarantors/Mortgagors under Rule 8 and 9 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rule 2002.For detailed terms & conditions of the sale, please refer to the link provided in Secured Creditors website i.e. http://www.pegasus-arc.com/assets-to-auction.html for detailed terms & conditions of e-auction/sale of respective property and other details before submitting their bids for taking part in the e-auction. Bidders may also visit the website https://sarfaesi.auctiontiger.net or contact service provider M/s. E Procurement Technologies Ltd. Auction Tiger, Bidder Support : 07968136805/68136837 Mo.: +91 9265562821 & 9374519754, Email :vijay.shetty@auctiontiger.net, chintan.bhatt@auctiontiger.net @ support@auctiontiger.net. **(Sd/-) Authorised Officer**

Place : Bengaluru **Pegasus Assets Reconstruction Private Limited**
Date : 29.05.2025 **(Acting in its capacity as Trustee of Pegasus Group 38 Trust I)**

'Theatre frees you'

Kannada actor Kishore Kumar talks about his journey in Indian cinema and his love for theatre

Challenged by the medium Actor Kishore, shares the nuances of theatre. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Yemen S.
yemen.s@thehindu.co.in

Multilingual actor Kishore Kumar makes a powerful comeback to theatre nearly two decades later, with *Love Letters - Ninna Preetiya Naanu*. He reflects on the challenges of the stage, the limits of screen experience and why theatre remains an unfiltered space for expression. Edited excerpts.

Q: What drew you back to theatre after all these years?
A: The attraction was always there and I wanted to go back to where I started. I began with college theatre more than two decades ago; it was not even amateur theatre then. I feel theatre is a freer medium and is not bound by strictures.

Q: How different is it to return to the stage, with years of screen experience behind you?
A: Honestly, all these years of screen experience were of no help. Cinema spoils you as an actor or performer, giving you a lot of time to prepare beforehand. With theatre it is the opposite. Over the last few weeks, I realised that every show is different, and you keep learning as you execute the play. That does not happen in cinema, despite having the luxury of time to create.

Q: What was the most challenging part of preparing for this performance?
A: I agreed to do this play because I did not have to learn my lines but had to read from the script. I thought it would be easy, but realised this was a big challenge, as reading involves a lot of effort in theatre. You have to reach out to the audience through your voice and words. Projecting my voice was a challenge as I feel that my decibel levels are low. I perform the play with Siri Ravikumar and genetically, women's voices have a higher frequency, so matching up to her projection , sounding clear and not losing my energy was challenging.

Q: How was it to work with the Bangalore Theatres Collective? Do you see yourself doing more theatre going forward?
A: The team understood my limitations as an actor from a cinema background and were accommodative. I would love to do more theatre as it is a wonderful medium.If time and opportunity permits, I would want to continue doing theatre.

Q: What is the update on the film you are directing?
A: I have been directing a film for the last three years. It is an independent, small budget film, which I have been working on with a few friends. Hopefully, it will be ready for release next year.

Q: You have been busy with Tamil, Telugu, Malayalam and Hindi projects. Have Kannada projects reduced?
A: I have not had an opportunity to work in good Kannada films.

There have been quite a lot of wonderful Kannada films of late, with newcomers trying to bring out fresh stories, so hopefully I will get to do more work here. I am currently working on an interesting Kannada film, directed by Sindhu Sreenivasa Murthy, who directed *Aachar & Co*.

The weight of letters

Nostalgic moments Siri Ravikumar in a scene from the play. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

In an age of text messages and endless notifications, *Love Letters – Ninna Preetiya Naanu* offers pause — a gentle, 80-minute meditation on memory, missed chances, and the enduring power of words. This Kannada adaptation of AR Gurney's celebrated play *Love Letters,* will be staged by Bangalore Theatre Collective on May 30.

Told entirely through the lifelong correspondence between the characters Rashmi and Siddharth, it is performed by Siri Ravikumar and cine actor Kishore Kumar.

"When we first read *Love Letters*, it felt like we were reading the subtext of our own lives — the missed calls, unsent texts, the 'almosts' and 'what-ifs' that linger in the background of memory," director Venkatesh Prasad said.

The play explores themes of class, gender, mental health and social conditioning. It is a mirror to the emotional complexities of modern life and a quiet act of resistance in a noisy world. The play is a reminder of the beauty in slowing down, listening, and holding space for what was and what might have been.

Love Letters – Ninna Preetiya Naanu will be staged at Ranga Shankara on May 30 at 7.30 pm. Tickets, at Ranga Shankara box office and BookMyShow.

STEPOUT

Well-versed

There will be a two-hour poetry-writing workshop organised by Dillipoetry and Rachit Sharma.

The story *The Little Prince,* published 80 years ago, will be used as a portal.

The focus of the workshop will be on poetry writing, prompts and exercises with facilitated reflection, recitations, discussions, and more.

On June 1, 12.30pm at Atta Galatta.

Registrations/tickets, ₹899 per person, available on BookMyShow.

All in the new

Jollygunj, rooftop bar concept by Byg Ventures, opens at The Galleria Mall, Yelahanka.

It offers a music-focused ambience, adult-only entry and a defined dress code.

The bar-menu includes 15 signature shots, including whisky.

The culinary options include local street food favourites, such as Jolly mutton seekh and clubhouse fish fry.

Rooftop, The Galleria Mall, Yelahanka, will be open between noon and 1am.

Rahiman murder case: Three arrested

The Hindu Bureau
MANGALURU

The Bantwal Rural Police on Thursday arrested three persons in connection with the murder of Abdul Rahiman and the severe injury to Kalandar Shafi at Ira Kodi in Kuriyala village of Bantwal taluk on May 27.

The police identified the arrested individuals as Deepak, 21, a resident of Kuriyala, and Prithviraj, 21, and Chintan, 19, both residents of Ammunje village.

Five teams

As many as five teams were formed to investigate the case, with the Bantwal Deputy Superintendent of Police serving as the investigating officer.

The three were arrested at Kanapady in Kallige village of Bantwal taluk, according to a statement by the Dakshina Kannada district police here. Search was on to trace the remaining accused.

On May 27, a group of persons attacked Rahiman and Shafi, who were unloading sand from a pick-up vehicle at Ira Kodi, with lethal weapons. While Rahiman died on the spot, Shafi was undergoing treatment in a private hospital in the city.

Complainant Mohammed Nissar told the police that Shafi, who knew a few of the accused, revealed the names of Deepak and one Sumit, besides informing of the presence of 13 other persons forming the group of assailants.

Special Action Force formed to tackle communal incidents, hate speech

It will play a primary role in gathering intelligence on possible provocative incidents and prevent them

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Following the recent killings along communal lines, particularly in the coastal region, the State government has formed a Special Action Force (SAF) to tackle communal incidents in three sensitive districts of Dakshina Kannada, Udupi, and Shivamogga.

The SAF will comprise 248 police personnel and three companies, with each of the three districts getting one company. It will play a role in gathering intelligence on potential communal and provocative incidents and hate speeches, and prevent them.

A government order issued on May 28, 2025 stated that the SAF would be headed by a Deputy Inspector-General of Police. The force (248 members) has been carved out of the existing Anti-Naxal Force (ANF) which has 656 officers and personnel. The ANF's strength will now be reduced to 376 for the next three years.

A file photo of Anti-Naxal Force personnel during combing operations near the Kodagu-Dakshina Kannada border. As many as 248 personnel from the force will be part of the Special Action Force.

After the murder of Suhas Shetty, a rowdy sheeter and murder accused, near Bajpe in Mangaluru on May 1, Home Minister G. Parameshwara had announced that a special force would be formed to effectively tackle communal crimes, including hate speeches.

He said that personnel from the ANF, whose size is being reduced because of the absence of Maoist activity, and other police personnel, would be part of it.

Reacting to the order, Dr. Parameshwara said that to ensure peace and communal harmony, he had also directed officers to hold peace meetings with community leaders.

"The order has been issued to immediately set up and enforce the SAF. Steps will be taken by the Director-General and Inspector-General of Police M.A. Saleem. The three districts are considered very sensitive. Anyone who incites communcal violence won't be spared and will be dealt with strictly," the Home Minister told reporters.

He said that the four persons in the murder of Abdul Rahiman had been arrested. The police were gathering information about the incident and taking preventive measures to restore law and order.

Police top brass of DK, Udupi reshuffled

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Following recent communal incidents, the State government has reshuffled senior IPS officers of Dakshina Kannada and Udupi districts.

Senior IPS officer Sudheer Kumar Reddy has been posted as Deputy Inspector-General and Commissioner of Police, Mangaluru city.

Incumbent Anupam Agrawal has been transferred from Mangaluru city and posted as Deputy Inspector-General of Police, Economic Offences, Criminal Investigation Department.

Meanwhile, Arun K., Superintendent of Police, Udupi, has been transferred and posted as SP of Dakshina Kannada.

Incumbent Yatish N. has been transferred. Hariram Shankar, SP, Intelligence, has been transferred and posted as SP, Udupi.

In another development, Borase Bhushan Gulabrao, Deputy Inspector-General of Police, Cyber Crime and Narcotics, Criminal Investigation Department, has been transferred and posted as Deputy Inspector-General of Police & Commissioner of Police, Belagavi city.

Lad, unions of gig workers meet Gehlot

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Following Governor Thaawarchand Gehlot's assent to the Karnataka Platform-based Gig Workers (Social Security and Welfare) Ordinance, representatives of various gig workers unions, along with Labour Minister Santosh Lad, met Mr. Gehlot at Raj Bhavan to express their appreciation.

Leaders of United Food Delivery Partners' Union and Gig and Platform Service Workers Union (GIPSWU), the first women gig workers-led union, spoke briefly to the Governor, the Minister, and Labour Department officials during the meeting.

"Women leaders from GIPSWU tried to talk about safety as being very important for the women workers. But it was also interesting hearing from one of our newer leaders who work for Zomato about how she feels unsafe as a woman at night even if you are on the streets," said Anousha from GIPSWU.

According to her, the union is hoping to continue discussions with the officials and ensure representation of workers on the tripartite board that is expected to be formed in the coming days.

Vinay Sarathy United Food Delivery Partners' Union (UFDPU) told *The Hindu* that the union resubmitted to the officials a list of criticisms which it had issued after the draft of the Bill was published last year. One of the demands include ensuring adequate representation from workers unions. In a statement, UFDPU also demanded that steps must be taken to ensure platform-based gig workers are considered labourers and that all labour laws must apply to them.

Congress Muslim leaders announce resignation from positions

The Hindu Bureau
MANGALURU

Several Muslim leaders of the Congress in Dakshina Kannada, right from booth-level to State-level, on Thursday, announced their resignations from their party positions in protest of the government's alleged failure to contain the series of 'communal murders' in the district and sidelining community leaders.

The announcement was made during an emergency meeting of party workers convened at Shadi Mahal in Bolara here, under the leadership of M.S. Mohammed, general secretary of the Karnataka Pradesh Congress Committee.

As the leaders discussed waiting a few more days for the government's response, angry workers forced them to announce their resignations.

District Minority wing president of the Congress, Shahul Hameed, told party workers that Chief Minister Siddaramaiah had called him, urging community leaders not to take any hasty decisions. Mr. Hameed said that the CM told him the issue had reached the party high command as well and asked him to wait for some more time.

However, this statement did not go down well with the party workers, who rushed towards the leaders demanding immediate resignation.

CBI ties up with Department of Posts

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Central Bureau of Investigation (Banking Security & Fraud and Anti-Corruption branches), Bengaluru, on Wednesday signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with the Department of Posts, Karnataka Circle.

The MoU, according to an official release, will facilitate the dispatch and delivery of summons and legal notices through the 'Book Now Pay Later' (BNPL) speed post service of India Post.

As per the MoU, India Post will provide customised envelopes and proof of delivery (POD) cards bearing the CBI logo and addresses to place notices and summons. These will be collected from CBI branches by India Post for delivery. The signed POD cards will then be returned to the CBI. Full tracking will be available through the India Post website.

Urban dementia screening study highlights gaps in awareness and early detection

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

An urban dementia screening study, involving 716 older adults from upper socio-economic backgrounds across apartment complexes in Bengaluru, has found that family members and the elderly often miss early signs of cognitive decline.

The study conducted by Dementia India Alliance (DIA), an NGO promoting dementia care in the country, in association with Athulya Senior Care, has found that stigma continues to prevent timely screening, even in educated communities.

This initiative comes in the wake of growing evidence of the rising prevalence of dementia in India. The Longitudinal Aging Study in India - Diagnostic Assessment of Dementia (LASI-DAD) has estimated that over 7.4% of Indians aged 60 and above may be living with dementia, with nearly 90% remaining undiagnosed owing to a lack of awareness, stigma, and access to trained professionals.

An urban dementia screening study was conducted involving 716 older adults from upper socio-economic backgrounds across apartment complexes in Bengaluru. FILE PHOTO

Findings of study

Giving details of the findings, Ramani Sundaram, executive director of DIA, told presspersons on Thursday that among 591 elders aged 60-plus, 12.2% of the individuals were identified with cognitive impairment through HMSE (Hindi Mental State Examination) score of ≤23. While 29.2% men and 25% women had at least one vascular comorbidity, 30.6% men and 26.4% women had either hearing or vision impairment. These findings highlight the need to address vascular risk factors such as diabetes, hypertension, and sensory impairments, which were observed among participants, she said.

The study found that family members of 56.9% individuals screened failed to recognise early signs of cognitive decline, underscoring how stigma continues to delay timely screening even in educated communities.

An additional 72 participants had scored 24-26 in HMSE, 59.7% amongst them male. These individuals are considered a vulnerable population and will be followed up with individual and family education to encourage further assessment, she said.

Among 79 individuals aged between 50 and 59, 11.4% had cognitive impairment, of which 66.7% individuals had at least one vascular or sensory comorbidity. This early-onset trend further emphasises the need for preventive strategies and early interventions, even among younger older adults.

Radha S. Murthy, DIA president, said individuals identified with cognitive impairment and those belonging to the vulnerable group will be referred and followed up through DemClinic - the free online memory clinic - for further assessment and personalised risk reduction counselling.

THE HINDU GROUP

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Pro Vice-Chancellor,
Science & Humanities, Law and Management,
SRM Institute of Science and Technology,
Kattankulathur

Prof. A Joseph Dorairaj
Emeritus Professor,
School of English & Foreign Languages
Gandhigram Rural Institute, Gandhigram

Soma Basu
Senior Deputy Editor,
The Hindu (Moderator)

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SAA-K calls for reforms to ensure regular supply of free medicines

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Welcoming the Karnataka government's decision to close down Jan Aushadhi Kendras on the premises of government facilities, members of the Sarvatrika Arogya Andolana-Karnataka (SAA-K), a coalition of 30 networks advocating 'Health for All', has called for urgent measures to ensure uninterrupted availability and free access to essential medicines within public health facilities.

Asserting that the closure of around 180 Jan Aushadhi Kendras on government hospital premises is only a first step, SAA-K members said urgent measures must follow to guarantee that no patient is forced to buy medicines.

Addressing presspersons here on Thursday, Rajesh Kumar, convener of SAA-K Bangalore Urban district, said: "The closure of Jan Aushadhi Kendras on government hospital premises corrects a contradiction: medicines should be provided free at public facilities, and their sale within the same premises undermined that very promise."

"The government must now focus on strengthening Karnataka State Medical Services Corporation Limited (KSMSCL) and ensuring uninterrupted supply of quality medicines in all government facilities," said another member Ritash, a writer and an LGBTQIA+ peer counsellor.

Asha Kilaru, a public health researcher with SAAK, said KSMSCL must match the efficiency, transparency, and quality of the Tamil Nadu Medical Services Corporation.

Man arrested for trying to sell pistol

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Officials of the Organised Crime Wing recently arrested a 32-year-old rowdy sheeter in Bengaluru, and seized a country-made pistol with ammunition.

Based on a tip-off, a police team tracked down Sameer Shariff in D.J. Halli and allegedly caught him red-handed while he was waiting to deliver the weapon to his customer.

Sameer allegedly told the the police that he had sourced the weapon from his contact in Delhi.

CM meeting Hariprasad triggers speculation about Cabinet reshuffle

But, Siddaramaiah tells reporters that he and the party MLC discussed issues related to Mangaluru

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

A breakfast meeting between Chief Minister Siddaramaiah and Congress MLC B.K. Hariprasad on Thursday gave rise to speculation about a possible Cabinet reshuffle.

Mr. Siddaramaiah called on Mr. Hariprasad at the latter's residence here.

However speaking to reporters, the Chief Minister said they discussed issues related to Mangaluru, which has been witnessing murders on communal lines. "There is a need to bring harmony in Mangaluru. No matter how influential the perpetrators of communal riots are, strict action will be taken as per the law," he said.

Tete-a-tete: Chief Minister Siddaramaiah with Congress MLC B.K. Hariprasad at the latter's residence in Bengaluru on Thursday.

The Chief Minister was accompanied by Housing Minister B.Z. Zameer Ahmed Khan and Naseer Ahmed, MLC.

Mr. Hariprasad, a backward classes leader, has been criticising the Chief Minister after being denied a Cabinet berth during the formation of the government in May, 2023.

The MLC had lashed out at Mr. Siddaramaiah for "denying justice to Dalits, minorities and a large section of OBCs in the government" without citing his name directly, on several occasions.

Sources in the ruling party said that with the government completing two years in office, several senior legislators have been mounting pressure on the Chief Minister to recast his Cabinet.

Deputy Chief Minister and KPCC chief D.K. Shivakumar has been reportedly opposing it till the "informal" power-sharing agreement is honoured and Mr. Siddaramaiah steps down from office after completing his two-and-a-half-year tenure in October, 2025, party sources said.

On May 28, Mr. Shivakumar met AICC general secretaries Randeep Singh Surjewala (Karnataka incharge) and K.C. Venugopal (Organisation) in Bengaluru to discuss the political developments in the State. However, the it is learnt that central leaders hinted to Mr. Shivakumar that there is a necessity to involve AICC president Mallikarjun Kharge and Leader of Opposition in the Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi to discuss honouring the "informal" power-sharing agreement, Cabinet reshuffle, and filling four seats in the Legislative Council.

One line of speculation is that Mr. Siddaramaiah asked Mr. Hariprasad to accept the post of Chairman of the Legislative Council once the party secures a majority after filling four vacant seats in the Upper House.

Source also claimed that Mr. Siddaramaiah told Mr. Hariprasad to convince the party's central leaders on the necessity of undertaking Cabinet reshuffle since they are familiar to him, so that he would be accommodated in the Ministry.

Shivakumar to CS: Don't transfer officials to or from my dept. without approval

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Deputy Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar, who holds the Water Resources portfolio, has written a strongly worded letter to Chief Secretary Shalini Rajneesh not to transfer officials to the Water Resources Department without his approval.

He demanded that the Department of Personnel and Administrative Reforms (DPAR) immediately revoke the transfers already made.

The DPAR falls under the Chief Minister and the letter is largely seen as a game of one-upmanship between Chief Minister Siddaramaiah and Mr. Shivakumar.

In the letter, Mr. Shivakumar told the Chief Secretary that he had been informed during the formation of the government in 2023 that there would be no interference in the transfer of officials of his department without his approval.

Five chief engineers were transferred to the Water Resources Department on May 9 and Mr. Shivakumar wrote to the Chief Secretary on May 13.

Speaking to reporters after inspecting the *rajakaluve* and canals that caused floods near Manyata Tech Park in Bengaluru, Mr. Shivakumar reiterated that he had written to the Chief Secretary not to transfer officials from his department or to his department without his permission.

Deputy Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar talking to reporters in Bengaluru on Thursday.

Five chief engineers were transferred to the Water Resources Department on May 9 and DKS wrote to the Chief Secretary on May 13

"Engineers come to our department and get promoted and then get transferred to other departments, including Public Works, or zilla panchayat," he said. When asked who had transferred them without his permission, the Deputy Chief Minister said, MLAs tend to bring pressure to send engineers to other departments.

"In such cases, I have asked them to bring it to my attention before transferring them," he added.

Letter has brought shadow-boxing to the fore, says BJP

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Deputy Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar writing to the Chief Secretary expressing displeasure over transfers in his department without his permission has created a political flutter, with the Bharatiya Janata Party describing this as a clear indication of "shadow-boxing" between the Chief Minister and the Deputy Chief Minister "getting set to explode".

Leader of the Opposition in the Assembly R. Ashok shared a photo of the strongly-worded letter by Mr. Shivakumar on social media, and said, "There are full indications of the shadow-boxing between the Chief Minister and the Deputy Chief Minister getting exploded as the time for transferring power is approaching."

He further said, "The letter written by the Deputy Chief Minister to the Chief Secretary taking exception to effecting transfers in his department by the Chief Minister without his consent, has brought to the fore the internal tussle in the Congress government in Karnataka." Meanwhile, BJP State president B.Y. Vijayendra said the State politics was set to witness a major turn in the next few days. "The transfer issue is only an alibi. All these developments are only a precursor to the climax."

KSERC-4497/24 Office of the Electricity Department, Thrissur Corporation, Thrissur, Dated: 24.05.2025

THRISSUR CORPORATION - ELECTRICITY DEPARTMENT

E - Expression of Interest Notification

"Appointment of Consultancy for preparing estimate"-

Last Date : 13.06.2025

For Details: Please visit: www.tced.in

Sd/-, M K Krishnakumar, Assistant Secretary, Electricity Department, Thrissur Municipal Corporation

From Page One

HC bins govt. decision to withdraw 43 cases

The GO and the decision reflected therein smack of the political nature of the exercise of powers, the court said.

"The State government itself has claimed that Ministers and officials were part of the meeting which ended with the impugned GO passed by the State government. It could be contended, therefore, that it was a political decision," the court said.

As the Bench has declared that "the GO shall stand non est from the inception and the consequences in law shall follow," it would mean that even if the proceedings in any of these 43 cases were already withdrawn from the jurisdictional courts based on the GO, all those proceedings will resume from the stage at which they were withdrawn.

"The executive government cannot issue a fiat in this regard. It cannot wield pressure on the public prosecutors (PPs) independence and independent judgment about withdrawal of the cases... This province is that of public prosecutor and the court. Any violation on this core is a violation of rule of law itself," the Bench observed, while pointing out that Section 321 gives power, with certain riders, only to the PPs to withdraw criminal prosecution.

Though the government tried to justify the GO by contenting that it is only in the nature of instructions given and does not take away the application of mind by the respective public prosecutors, the Bench said that "the Government Order, when read, gives the impression otherwise."

The Bench also said that "if allowed to be sustained, it [the GO] would work contrary to the object and spirit of Section 321 Cr. PC, discounting the rule of law and working in its ultimate analysis, against public interest."

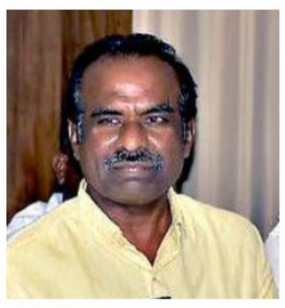
High Court asks BJP MLC to tender personal apology to Kalaburagi DC

FROM THE COURT

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Karnataka High Court on Thursday asked BJP MLC N. Ravikumar to tender a personal apology to Kalaburagi Deputy Commissioner (DC) Fouzia Taranum for making a defamatory statement that "the DC, who is functioning under the influence of the ruling Congress government, seems to be from Pakistan".

A Vacation Bench of Justice Suraj Govindaraj issued an oral direction in this regard while adjourning the hearing on Mr. Ravikumar's petition, in which he has challenged the FIR registered against him by the Station Bazaar police in Kalaburagi.



N. Ravikumar

The case in M.P.

Referring to the actions taken by the Madhya Pradesh High Court and the Supreme Court against a Minister in Madhya Pradesh State Cabinet for making a controversial remark against Colonel Sofiya Qureshi, who was among armed forces officers who briefed the media on Operation Sindoor, the court told Mr. Ravikumar's advocate that the MLC should not be making such a statement.

When his advocate said the MLC has already apologised clarifying that "it was a slip of the tongue and he made these intemperate remarks inadvertently" while also making it clear that he had no complaint against Deputy Commissioner's professional competency and integrity, the court said the MLC has to apologise to the officer personally and she has to accept it.

No coercive action

Meanwhile, the court recorded the submission of the Additional State Public Prosecutor that the police will not take any coercive action against Mr. Ravikumar if he cooperates with the investigation.

Also, the court suggested that the advocate advise the MLC appropriately and file an affidavit after apologising to Ms. Taranum, while adjourning further hearing till June 6.

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TENDER NOTICE

For more details, please visit E- Tendering Portal https://etenders.kerala.gov.in or www.kmml.com

No	Tender ID	Items
1.	2025_KMML_766685_1	For the supply of Roaster Outlet Chute- 2 Nos
2.	2025_KMML_766424_1	For the supply of triple Stage Helical Gear Box-1 No
3.	2025_KMML_766458_1	For the supply of Base Plate for Rotary Digester-1 Nos

Chavara. 29.05.2025 Sd/ Managing Director for The Kerala Minerals and Metals Ltd

BRUHAT BENGALURU MAHANAGARA PALIKE
Office of the Chief Health Officer (Public Health),
Ground Floor, Annex-3 Building, BBMP Head Office,
N.R. Square, Bengaluru - 560002.

No: BBMP/2025-26/SE1518/CALL-2 Date: 29-05-2025

TENDER NOTIFICATION

Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike invites Short Term Tender from eligible bidders for the following.

1) Short Term Re-Tender for **Supply of DEO CUM ACCOUNTANT's to UPHC's on outsource basis.**

RFP Reference No: **BBMP/2025-26/SE1518/CALL-2**

Calendar of Events: 1) Date of Commencement of Download of RFP Document from Karnataka Public Procurement Portal Website: **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in from 29-05-2025 onwards. 2)** Date, Time and Venue of Pre Bid Meeting on **03-06-2025 at 12.30 PM in the Office of the Special Commissioner (Health), Ground Floor, Annex-3 Building, N.R. Square, Bengaluru - 560002. 3)** Last Date and Time for Uploading Online Queries in Karnataka Public Procurement Portal: **03-06-2025 upto 5.00 PM. 4)** Last Date and Time for Uploading RFP in Karnataka Public Procurement Portal: **12-06-2025 upto 5.00 PM. 5)** Date and Time of Online Opening of RFP Applications in Karnataka Public Procurement Portal: **13-06-2025 at 5.10 PM. 6)** Place of Opening of RFP Applications: **Online at Karnataka Public Procurement Portal. 7)** Address for Communication: **Office of the Chief Health Officer (Public Health), Ground Floor, Annex-3 Building, N.R. Square, Bengaluru - 560002. Phone No: 9845208571, E-mail: choph515@gmail.com.** Further details can be had from the above office.

Sd/-
Chief Health Officer (Public Health), BBMP.

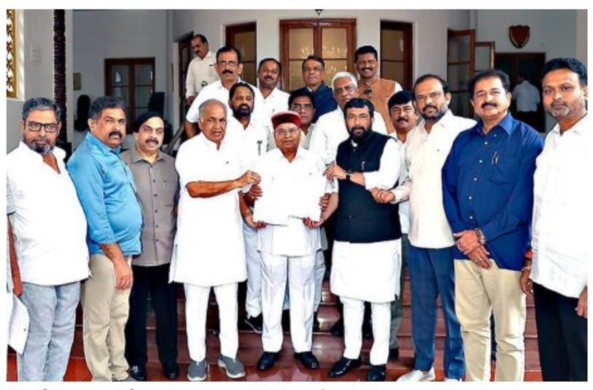
Congress MLCs meet Governor, seek action against Ravikumar, Chalavadi

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Congress MLCs on Thursday called on Governor Thaawarchand Gehlot and demanded his immediate intervention, seeking constitutional and legal action against BJP MLC N. Ravikumar for his alleged derogatory remark against IAS officer and Kalaburagi Deputy Commissioner Fouzia Taranum.

They also demanded the Governor's action against Chalavadi Narayanaswamy, Leader of the Opposition in the Legislative Council, for his alleged derogatory remarks against Minister Priyank Kharge.

Mr. Ravikumar on Tuesday expressed regret over his "intemperate but inadvertent" remarks against Ms. Taranum. Mr. Ravikumar had, during a recent protest in Kalaburagi, alleged that the Deputy Commissioner's office had "lost independence" as she "took orders from RDPR Minister Priyank Kharge", wondering if she was an IAS officer or "someone who came from Pakistan", leading to widespread condemnation.



For intervention: Congress MLCs submitting a petition to Governor Thaawarchand Gehlot at Raj Bhavan in Bengaluru on Thursday.

They want Gehlot to advise Leader of the Opposition in the Council to step down from his post for his remark on Priyank Kharge

In a petition to the Governor, the Congress MLCs urged him to take *suo motu* cognisance of the derogatory remarks made by Mr. Ravikumar and issue a formal condemnation of his statement, upholding constitutional values of secularism, administrative neutrality, and respect for public servants.

'Recommend action'

They urged the Governor "to recommend disciplinary or ethical proceedings against the MLC under the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in the Legislative Council, including censure or suspension, as warranted.

Against Council LoP

Congress MLCs, including Minister N.S. Boseraju, and members Salim Ahmed and Dinesh Guli Gowda, demanded Mr. Gehlot's intervention against Mr. Narayanaswamy for his derogatory remarks against Mr. Kharge. "The MLC likened the Cabinet Minister, Priyank Kharge, to a dog," the petition said.

The petition said the Governor should immediately advise Mr. Narayanaswamy to step down from his post and take moral responsibility for the unparliamentary remark. This will ensure dignity is maintained in the public discourse and democratic institutions are preserved.

"Moreover, downtrodden members will also understand that the Governor would not let highly powerful individuals trample upon their rights," the petition said.

Kameswar Rao to be acting Chief Justice

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

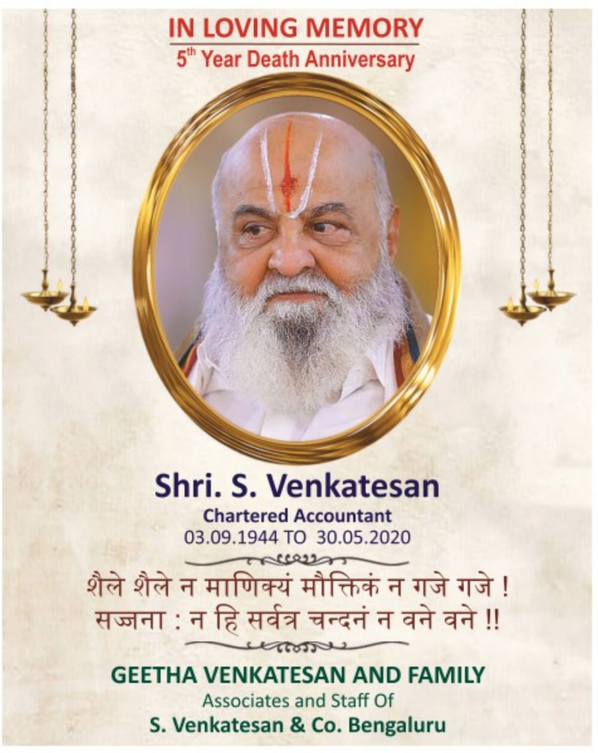
The President on Thursday appointed Justice V. Kameswar Rao, senior judge of the High Court of Karnataka, as the acting Chief Justice with effect from the date Chief Justice N.V. Anjaria relinquishes charge of his office following his elevation as a judge of the Supreme Court.

Born on August 7, 1965, Mr. Justice Rao secured his law degree from Delhi University and was enrolled as an advocate in 1991 with the Bar Council of Delhi. After practising before the Supreme Court and several High Courts, he was designated as a senior advocate by the Delhi High Court in 2010. He was elevated as an additional judge of the Delhi High Court on April 17, 2013, and as a permanent judge on March 18, 2015. He was transferred as a judge of the High Court of Karnataka and assumed office on June 1, 2024.

At present, he is also the Executive Chairperson of the Karnataka State Legal Services Authority.

OBITUARY & REMEMBRANCE

IN MEMORIAM



Inside the Jayalakshmi Vilas Mansion, where the restoration work is currently on, and the relics displayed inside. Four separate teams are working on different aspects of the project simultaneously – an architectural restoration team, a collections team, a digital imaging team, and an object conservation team. RAVICHANDRAN N

Jayalakshmi Vilas Mansion: Where the traditions of the Deccan come alive

The restoration of the mansion in Mysuru is being supported by the Harish and Bina Shah Foundation and the U.S. Ambassador's Fund for Cultural Preservation

Preeti Zachariah
BENGALURU

A tepid drizzle falls on the Jayalakshmi Vilas Mansion (JVM) in Mysuru, leaving behind silvery dribblets on piles of rubble, scaffolding and blue construction sheets covering vast sections of the lemon-hued edifice, currently under restoration. As soon as one enters the mansion, what strikes almost immediately is the years of neglect. Yet vestiges of its past glory still linger in this 120-year-old, former royal residence with its Roman columns, stained glass dome, ornate balconies, pressed-metal ceiling tiles, elaborately carved wooden pillars and Italian marble flooring, a testament to the eclectic architectural style so typical of Mysuru's Wadiyar dynasty.

Layered cultures

"Historically, Mysuru was one of the most prosperous regions in the Deccan, reflecting the rich, layered cultures of southern India – from early historic times to the modern era. The Jayalakshmi Vilas Mansion itself, with its four wings, is an architectural testament to transcultural and transhistorical influences," says Dr. Helen Philon, co-founder of the Deccan Heritage Foundation India (DHFI), which is currently in the process of restoring this architecturally diverse building.

The restoration, which is being supported by the Harish and Bina Shah Foundation (HBSF) and the U.S. Ambassador's Fund for Cultural Preservation (AFCP), doesn't just stop at restoring the structural integrity and former glory of this building, which has served multiple purposes over its lifetime, including royal family residence, academic hub and finally a folklore museum housing thousands of anthropological and ethnographic artefacts sourced from across Karnataka. It also seeks to transform it into a cultural landmark of sorts that "will attract not only Mysoreans but also Bangaloreans, Deccanis, visitors from across India, and an international audience eager to attend its musical, dance, and other performance events, exhibitions, and culinary experiences celebrating the harmonious coexistence of its Deccani cultures," says Dr. Philon.

From house to museum

In 1897, Maharajakumari Jayalakshammanni, the eldest daughter of Chamaraja Wadiyar X and Maharani Vani Vilasa Sannidhana, was married to her mother's brother, Sir Kantharaj Urs. But during the wedding, the old wooden Mysore palace was destroyed in a fire, and so, her mother (who became the regent queen following the untimely death of her husband in 1894) commissioned British architect Henry Irwin to build a new palace that very same year, the oft-visited Amba Vilas Palace.

While the new Mysuru palace was being constructed, another palace, the JVM, was also built as a wedding gift to the princess. Pointing to one of the many wooden pillars inside the north wing of the mansion, Malavika Murthy, Project Coordinator, JVM Project, says, "Very interestingly, a lot of elements of construction you see here in JVM are patterns developed for the Mysore palace... The column design here is the same design you see on the cast iron columns in the marriage pavilion of the Mysore palace."

Work on the JVM started around 1900, and the completed building was inaugurated a few years later. "Some records say 1905, some say 1907," says Malavika. Archival research points to Sir Kantharaj and his family dividing their time between Mysuru and Bengaluru – he was appointed as the Dewan in 1918. "So what we understand is that the building was not used a lot during the initial years of its construction," she explains. "It was mainly used by their daughter and her family afterwards."

The family lived here until the death of Princess Leelavathi in 1954, after which, in 1959, the Mansion, along with 300 acres, was sold to the University of Mysore at a "nominal rate" when "Kuvempu (K.V. Puttappa) was its vice-chancellor."

Back then, the university was mainly functioning at the Maharaja's College, so once they bought the land and the building, they suddenly had much more space to expand. "He started the Manasagangotri from this building," she says. "This was the genesis of many master's programmes in Mysore University."

Folklore museum

Right from the beginning, the departments of Anthropology, Ancient History, and the administration blocks were at the JVM, which is also why it began to house so many interesting objects. Some of these included Mysore Ganjifa cards, leather and string puppets, musical instruments, paintings even a collection of everyday objects, including several shavige manés, the kitchen tools used to make stringhoppers, explains Akhila Udayashankar, a senior conservation architect who is heading this ongoing conservation project for DHFI.

Other notable objects found here are a collection of documents and artefacts of some of the doyens of Kannada literature, including Kuvempu, Javaregowda, Bendre, Triveni and Lankesh and a giant statue of Mariamman, "a traditional vernacular deity who is often found at the edge of villages, a symbol of protection," she says, describing it as "an object of great impact once you look at it."

Over time, as the university received more funding and grew, new department blocks began to be constructed outside the building, and people started moving to the new buildings. "Until 2000, there were a lot of departments still functioning here," says Malavika. Around this time, a partial restoration of the building, with a grant from the Infosys Foundation, was done, which also led to many of these departments moving out to other new buildings on the campus. "But the collection was still here, so they decided to make it a complete museum complex."

During this period, however, the upkeep of the mansion was neglected. "Things as basic as going to the terrace and cleaning out the leaves, seeing that the drains are functioning properly, and removing a tree growing on the building ensure its longevity," feels Malavika. And then, tragedy struck when the ceiling of the west wing collapsed some 12-odd years after this restoration.

A better future

But there was a silver lining to the incident – it kickstarted the journey towards the restoration of the mansion. "Repeated attention to the west wing roof collapse set the ball rolling," recalls Akhila.

Currently, four separate teams are working on different aspects of the project simultaneously: an architectural restoration team, a collections team, a digital imaging team, and an object conservation team. There is also a local architectural firm contributing to the interiors and design of new interventions. Akhila says that the architectural restoration of the building is occurring in parallel with experts studying the collections carefully, "looking at each object, giving it a new accession number, recording its details and setting up a system where the object is technically imaged. "For this, DHFI and HBSF commissioned Nefos, a custom-built platform, to enable comprehensive documentation and tracking of each object." The conservation team then examines each object, assesses its condition, and identifies the critical areas requiring treatment.

"We are working towards making these objects more accessible in fun ways for people to understand, interact with, and learn from them."

Cultural centre

The long-term plan for JVM, however, goes far beyond restoring the building and the collection, with the team also hoping to start a cultural and educational centre here that will ensure a degree of financial sustainability. "DHFI is passionate about coming up with ways to see how it can sustain itself financially in the long run to ensure that we are not handing over a white elephant to the authorities," says Akhila.

In a country where heritage conservation is not a priority, heritage buildings like this can survive only if they can pay for themselves, she believes, an opinion echoed by Dr. Philon. "Jayalakshmi Vilas Museum will be a centre for diverse activities that provide the means to maintain its buildings and collections," she says, offering examples of some planned activities, which include restaurants, a museum shop, and a range of educational programmes. "The Deccan Heritage Foundation has consistently prioritised sustainability in its restoration projects by cultivating the necessary local skills."

RRI team finds new code for detecting hidden properties of exotic materials

Scientists have discovered a new way of spotting a property of topological space called 'topological invariant' in quantum materials

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

A team from the Raman Research Institute (RRI) found a new code for detecting hidden properties of exotic materials.

According to the Department of Science and Technology, scientists have found a new way of spotting a property of topological space called 'topological invariant' in quantum materials, which remains unchanged under continuous deformations or transformations.

Topological materials are at the forefront of next-gen technology – quantum computing, fault-tolerant electronics, and energy-efficient systems. "But detecting their exotic properties has always been tricky. Topological invariance implies that if you can deform one shape into another without cutting or gluing, any topological invariant will be the same for both shapes," department said.

The Raman Research Institute. FILE PHOTO

It added that in certain materials like topological insulators and superconductors, strange things happen.

"Electrons behave differently depending on how the material is 'shaped' at the quantum level. These shapes are defined not by their appearance, but by something deeper–topological invariants, such as winding numbers (in 1D systems) and Chern numbers (in 2D systems). These numbers are like hidden codes that determine how particles move through a material," it added.

Spectral function

The RRI team found a new way to detect this hidden code using a property called the spectral function.

Professor Dibyendu Roy and PhD researcher Kiran Babasaheb Estake have carried this out by analyzing the momentum-space spectral function (SPSF).

Traditionally, scientists used techniques like ARPES (Angle-Resolved Photoemission Spectroscopy) to study electron behaviour.

The new research published in Physical Review B. showed that the same spectral function holds clues to the material's hidden topology–a revolutionary way to see the structure without directly observing it.

"The spectral function has been used for many years as an experimental tool to probe the physical quantities such as density of states and the dispersion relation of electrons in a system through ARPES. It was not seen as a tool to probe topology or topological aspects of an electronic system." said Kiran Babasaheb Estake, PhD student in theoretical Physics at RRI and the lead author.

Universal tool

The study potentially offers a universal tool to explore and classify topological materials, that could pave the way for new discoveries in condensed matter physics that could be useful for quantum computers, next generation electronics, and facilitate energy-efficiency.

FROM THE ARCHIVES
The Hindu.

FIFTY YEARS AGO MAY 30, 1975

Manchanabele Project Solely for Irrigation

Bangalore, May 29: The Manchanabele multi-purpose project in Ramanagaram taluk proposed to be taken up across the Arkavathi river is likely to undergo some changes.

The project, which was originally conceived with the object of controlling floods in the river besides providing irrigation facilities, is now likely to become purely an irrigation project. It is stated that under the revised plan the cost of the project would come down from Rs. 7 crores to Rs. 8 crores to about Rs. 5 crores and the area likely to be irrigated would go up by about 2.000 acres. It is also pointed out that there is already a major reservoir near Thippagondanahalli supplying drinking water to Bangalore and the construction of one more dam upstream would effectively control floods besides providing water for irrigation.

The State Government also proposes to take up a lift irrigation scheme across Manjra River in Bidar district to create irrigation facilities for about 1,20,000 acres. Two more projects, namely Karanja and Chulki, are in progress, and the completion of all three projects would help economic advancement of the district which is one of the most backward districts in the State.

Karnataka InFocus

THE HINDU

IN SHORT

Initiative by Ramakrishna Mutt

Swachh Mangaluru Abhiyan by Ramakrishna Mutt Mangaluru held since 2015 to involve people in clearing waste in the city gave impetus for effective clearance of wet and dry waste across Dakshina Kannada.
The Mutt also held Swachh Gram Abhiyan for rural area in Dakshina Kannada and Udupi districts.

Inspired to start other initiatives

The cleaning programmes Ramakrishna Mutt inspired volunteers to start Mangala Resource Management Private Limited, which is now managing four MRFs and also handling waste processing in several institutions and apartment complexes. Amba Maheshwari Seva Trust is involved streamlining house-to-house waste collection.

Plastic for roads from MRFs

To demonstrate the use of plastic in asphalting roads, a 50-metre-long approach road to the Multi Resource Facility (MRF) in Ujire has been made using plastics. Dakshina Kannada Zilla Panchayat Chief Executive Officer K. Anandh said MRFs are ready to provide plastic for asphalting other roads in the district as well.

Floating trash barriers proposed

Floating trash barriers are proposed to be installed across water streams in Dakshina Kannada district under the World Bank-funded K-Shore project. The project consultant will make a detailed study and suggest ways of using trash barriers, said Dakshina Kananada ZP CEO Dr. Anandh. The project is aimed at keeping the water bodies free of pollutants.

Ujire MRF processes waste for 48 GPs

The Ujire Material Recovery Facility, which was built at a cost of ₹2.41 crore, processes dry waste from 48 GPs of Belthangady taluk.
Set up in August 2024, this MRF has so far received 2.86 lakh kg of dry waste.
Of this, 1.3 lakh kg has gone for co-processing, while 1.2 lakh kg has gone for end destination re-cycling.

Model zero-cost MRFs process dry waste generated by 223 gram panchayats

The Central govt. mooted the setting up of a material recovery facility with a capacity to handle 10 tonnes of waste per day at a few places, including in Dakshina Kannada

Raghava M.
MANGALURU

Having become the lone district in Karnataka to have four material recovery facilities (MRFs) to process dry waste generated by all the 223 gram panchayats in Dakshina Kannada, the coastal district is moving towards having a scientific way of disposing of sanitary pads and diapers.

Dakshina Kannada Zilla Panchayat Chief Executive Officer K. Anandh said sanitary pads and diapers, collected from houses during the house-to-house collection of dry waste, remains unprocessed and they ultimately land up in the landfill sites.

To prevent this, the Zilla Panchayat is working with gram panchayats with a mechanism to send the sanitary pads and diapers to the nearest deep incineration facility where it will be burnt. "We are convincing the panchayats to make use of their funds to cover the cost of transporting and processing of sanitary pads and diapers. We hope to have a system in place in a month's time," said Zilla Panchayat Chief Executive Officer K. Anandh.

Start-up Mangala's material recovery facility at Bantwal. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Genesis of the idea

As part of the Swachh Bharath Mission, the Central government mooted setting up of material recovery facility (MRF) with the capacity of handling 10 tonnes of waste per day (TPD), in a few places in the country, including in Dakshina Kannada.

The first MRF with an installed capacity of 10 TPD was set up at Thenka Yedapadavu in Mangaluru taluk. Following the successful operation of this unit, three more MRFs with each having 7 TPD installed capacity were set up in Narikombu in Bantwal taluk, Ujire in Belthangady taluk, and Kedambady in Puttur taluk. Each of these three MRFs came on 7,150 square foot of area.

How they work

Each of the three MRFs having 7 TPD capacity cost ₹1.95 crore with the major portion of about ₹1.5 crore going for civil works and the remaining towards the machinery. Funds were raised from different grants to taluk panchayats and the ZP and from CSR (corporate social responsibility) initiatives, including ₹46.65 lakh from Sri Kshetra Dharmasthala Rural Development Project for the Ujire MRF, and ₹25 lakh from the District Mineral Fund. The MCF provided a truck to the Narikombu MRF.

The Tenka Yedapadavu facility is set up on a 10,000 squarefoot area at a cost of ₹4 crore. This facility processes dry waste from 51 gram panchayats (GPs) of Mangaluru, Moodbidri, Mulki and Bantwal taluks. Started in April 2023, this facility has so far received a total of 15.38 lakh kilograms of dry waste. As much as 6.15 lakh kg of inert materials, namely fabrics, rubber and multi layer plastic materials, were sent for co-processing at cement units namely ACC Geocycle, Dalmia, Ultratech, Vasavadatta and JK. A total of 9.23 lakh kg of dry waste namely glass bottle, paper cups, colour paper, e-waste, PET bottles, food packing material, general plastics and metals, were sent for end destination recycling to different units across the state. A total of 20 women and eight men work in this unit.

The Kedambady MRF is processing dry waste from 22 gram panchayats (GPs) of Puttur, 21 GPs of from Kadaba, and 25 GPs from Sullia taluks. Started in May, 2024, this MRF so far received 4.44 lakh kg of dry waste. Of this, 1.77 lakh kg has gone for co-processing, while 2.66 lakh kg of waste has gone for end destination recycling. As many as 19 women and 10 men work in this MRF.

The Ujire MRF, which was built at a cost of ₹2.41 crore, processes dry waste from 48 GPs of Belthangady taluk. Set up in August 2024, this MRF has so far received 2.86 lakh kg of dry waste. Of this, 1.3 lakh kg has gone for co-processing, while 1.2 lakh kg has gone for end destination re-cycling. A total of 16 women and six men work in this unit.

An inside view of the MRF centre at Tenka Yedapadavu. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

The Narikombu MRF, which was built at a cost of ₹2.7 crore, processes dry waste from 39 GPs from Bantwal taluk and 17 from Ullal taluk. Set up in December 2024, this MRF has so far received a total of 81,900 kg of dry waste. Of this, 32,760 kg has gone for co-processing, while 49,140 kg has gone for end destination re-cycling. A total of 18 women and six men work in this unit.

Zero-cost model

Dr. Anandh said these MRFs work on zero-cost model. These facilities are self sustaining ones. Neither the panchayat pays anything to the MRF operator, nor the operator pays anything to the panchayats. All the GPs collect dry waste from door-to-door and store it in a designated place. Trucks from the MRF visit the collection facility on designated days and transport the waste to the MRF, where it will be segregated depending on the size. Recyclable waste will be bailed through a bailing machine and sent to the recycler concerned, while non-recyclable waste is sent to cement factories as fuel.

"Our model is now being adopted in setting up MRFs in other districts," Dr. Anand said.

The start-up Mangala Resource Management Pvt. Ltd. operates Thenka Yedapadavu, Kedambady and Narikombu MRFs. It also handles MRF in Nitte in Udupi district. Vaishnawi Industries Ltd. manages the Ujire facility.

New proposal

As large quantity of dry waste is coming from Ullal and surrounding areas, a new MRF with 10 TPD capacity is proposed to come up in Balepuni village, Dr. Anandh said.

Mangala's material recovery facility at Nitte. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

MRF centre at Tenka Yedapadavu. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Bags containing plastic granules from the cargo of the Liberian ship *MSC Elsa 3* had washed ashore near the Vizhinjam International Seaport in Thiruvananthapuram on Wednesday. PTI

Kerala govt. declares Kochi shipwreck a State disaster

The Hindu Bureau
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

The Kerala government has declared the shipwreck that occurred 14.6 nautical miles off its coast on May 24 a "State-specific disaster".

Tinku Biswal, Principal Secretary of the State Disaster Management department, stated that the shipwreck off Kochi posed a potentially serious threat to Kerala's coast, environmentally, socially, and economically.

Ms. Biswal stated in the government order that the incident had raised serious concerns, including the potential for oil spills and drifting of debris, such as cargo containers, in the littoral waters abutting Kerala's coastline.

The order permits the State Disaster Management Authority to mobilise resources, including personnel and significant sums of money from the State Disaster Response Fund (SDRF), for relief efforts.

MSC Elsa 3, which had set sail for Kochi from Vizhinjam, foundered after encountering extreme weather.

Meanwhile, Revenue Minister K. Rajan said a emergency response ship from Puducherry had set sail for the sunken ship. He further said a marine disaster management team had cordoned off waters near the shipwreck site with floating booms to prevent oil slicks from spreading.

EDITORIAL
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Container washes ashore in south T.N.

The Hindu Bureau
KANNIYAKUMARI

A container from the sunken Liberian ship washed ashore between Kodimunai and Vaniyakudi in Tamil Nadu's Colachel on Thursday, a day after several bags of tiny plastic pellets from the ship were found along the shores of coastal villages in the western part of Kanniyakumari district.

Since Wednesday, containers from the ship are drifting towards Kanniyakumari due to ocean currents and monsoon winds.

Kanniyakumari District Collector R. Alagumeena told *The Hindu*, "A team from the shipping company in Gujarat is on its way to recover the item from the shore." The clearing of pellets from the shores continues for the second day, she said.

Andhra Pradesh CM vows to rid State of 'economic terrorists'

He accuses the YSRCP govt. of pushing the State back by 30 years and saddling the exchequer with a debt burden of ₹10 lakh crore

V. Raghavendra
KADAPA

Chief Minister and TDP national president N. Chandrababu Naidu said on Thursday that he was launching 'Operation Clean Politics' by taking a cue from Operation Sindoor, in order to eliminate "economic terrorists" pretending to be politicians. Andhra Pradesh incurred a mammoth loss due to illegal sand mining, land grabbing, and liquor scam, and ganja and drugs severely impacted the youth. The YSR Congress Party (YSRCP) had betrayed the people by making a slew of promises and giving them up to protect self interests. "The NDA Government is salvaging the situation, and it needs people's support if the State is to make the desired progress," he said while addressing a huge public meeting on the final day of Mahanadu here.

A view of the gathering on the final day of the Telugu Desam Party's Mahanadu, in Kadapa on Thursday.

Mr. Naidu said the TDP was a case study as to how a party and governance should be, while the YSRCP proved to be quite opposite, and vowed to wipe it (YSRCP) out for public good. Mr. Naidu asserted that the Mahanadu had been a grand success, and he was indebted to the people of Rayalaseema for giving the NDA a phenomenal result in the region, saying that 45 out of 52 Assembly seats in the region went to the NDA.

He accused the YSRCP of pushing the State back by 30 years through its policies and saddling the public exchequer with a debt burden of ₹10 lakh crore.

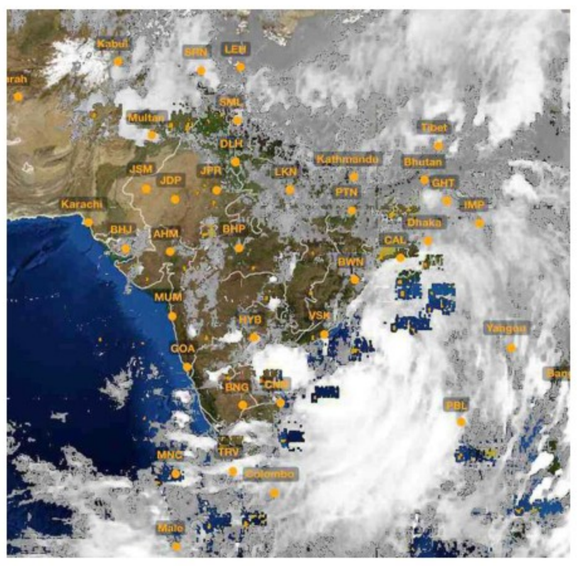
"A staggering ₹40,000 crore goes towards debt servicing every year," he noted. The YSRCP government was responsible for the blacklisting of A.P. by the Central government in providing funds. It was because A.P.'s share of several schemes was not paid in 2019-24, which crippled 94 Centrally Sponsored Schemes (CSS). The NDA Government got 73 of them revived in spite of severe financial constraints, he said. Mr. Naidu promised to resolve all land disputes in the State by the next Mahanadu by effectively implementing the new Anti-Land Grabbing Act. The government would complete the Polavaram project by the end of 2027 and give a tangible shape to the capital Amaravati, for which the Central government extended a financial support of ₹15,000 crore.

He stated that the NDA Government had a blueprint for development of Rayalaseema, which remained backward in spite of abundance of natural resources.

The focus would be on irrigation projects, horticulture, industries, green energy, tourism, highways and industrial corridors. Besides, the government had recommended the establishment of a High Court Bench in Kurnool. It would become a reality sooner than later. The construction of the Kadapa Steel Plant would begin soon, he said.

WEATHERWATCH

Rainfall, temperature & air quality in select metros yesterday



TEMPERATURE DATA: IMD, POLLUTION DATA: CPCB, MAP: INSAT/IMD (TAKEN AT 18.00 HRS)

Forecast for Friday: Heavy/very heavy rainfall likely at isolated places over Jammu & Kashmir, Uttarakhand, Bihar, Assam, Meghalaya, Nagaland, Manipur, Mizoram, Tripura, Sikkim, West Bengal, Odisha, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, Puducherry, Kerala and Mahe. Heat wave conditions likely at isolated places over Rajasthan

CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN	CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN
Agartala	11	27.0	25.6	Kozhikode	47	28.0	24.9
Ahmedabad	51	36.9	23.2	Kurnool	7	32.5	24.3
Aizawl	12.6	26.6	21.2	Lucknow	2.6	38.9	25.6
Allahabad	—	40.2	27.4	Madurai	—	34.5	26.7
Bengaluru	2.7	29.0	20.7	Mangaluru	79.8	27.4	22.9
Bhopal	—	39.5	23.6	Mumbai	35	33.2	23.0
Bhubaneswar	4.7	33.7	25.7	Mysuru	1.5	27.0	22.1
Chandigarh	—	41.3	27.7	New Delhi	—	39.1	29.0
Chennai	—	37.1	29.4	Patna	0.3	37.9	30.5
Coimbatore	3	28.2	23.3	Port Blair	9	31.9	26.4
Dehradun	8.4	35.8	21.2	Puducherry	—	34.9	26.8
Gangtok	29	21.6	17.9	Pune	17.6	34.1	24.9
Goa	—	29.0	28.0	Raipur	—	37.7	26.1
Guwahati	8	29.4	25.0	Ranchi	1	30.7	23.8
Hubballi	—	29.0	24.0	Shillong	10	21.9	18.3
Hyderabad	0.1	31.0	23.8	Shimla	7	26.6	12.4
Imphal	20.2	24.7	21.6	Srinagar	—	28.2	15.5
Jaipur	—	40.1	31.4	Thiruvananthapuram	3	30.6	26.4
Kochi	45	28.2	24.8	Tiruchi	—	35.1	27.6
Kohima	9	22.0	18.7	Vijayawada	—	35.0	27.4
Kolkata	7	30.2	26.0	Visakhapatnam	0.8	31.5	27.7

(Rainfall data in mm; temperature in Celsius)

Pollutants in the air you are breathing

CITIES	SO_2	NO_2	CO	PM2.5	PM10	CODE
Ahmedabad	.36	..50	..7	...213	...135	
Bengaluru	...8	..13	33	25	...111	
Chennai	.17	..15	26	61	52	
Delhi	.14	..35	56	...199	...233	
Hyderabad	.12	..16	42	...149	98	
Kolkata	...9	..56	25	40	37	
Lucknow	...8	..38	25	61	...109	
Mumbai	108	..16	47	58	...109	
Pune	..—	..68	92	45	96	
Visakhapatnam	.21	151	49	...107	...129	

Yesterday

In observation made at 4.00 p.m., Jaipur, Rajasthan recorded an overall air quality index (AQI) score of 243 indicating an unhealthy level of pollution. In contrast, Aizawl, Mizoram recorded a healthy AQI score of 5

Air Quality Code: Poor Moderate Good (Readings indicate average AQI)

SO_2: Sulphur Dioxide. Short-term exposure can harm the respiratory system, making breathing difficult. It can affect visibility by reacting with other air particles to form haze and stain culturally important objects such as statues and monuments.

NO_2: Nitrogen Dioxide. Aggravates respiratory illness, causes haze to form by reacting with other air particles, causes acid rain, pollutes coastal waters.

CO: Carbon monoxide. High concentration in air reduces oxygen supply to critical organs like the heart and brain. At very high levels, it can cause dizziness, confusion, unconsciousness and even death.

PM2.5 & PM10: Particulate matter pollution can cause irritation of the eyes, nose and throat, coughing, chest tightness and shortness of breath, reduced lung function, irregular heartbeat, asthma attacks, heart attacks and premature death in people with heart or lung disease

INBRIEF

Allu Arjun, Nivetha Thomas win big at Gaddar Film Awards

The winners of the inaugural edition of the Gaddar Telangana Film Awards, celebrating Telugu cinema, were announced on Thursday. *Kalki 2898 AD* has won the Best Feature Film award while the film's director, Nag Ashwin, bagged the Best Director Award. In the acting categories, Allu Arjun won Best Leading Actor for his performance in *Pushpa-2*, while Nivetha Thomas was named Best Leading Actress for her role in *35 Chinna Katha Kadu*. Sid Sriram, Shreya Ghoshal, S.J. Surya, Vennela Kishore were among the other awardees.

Repeated attempts made to merge BRS with BJP: Kavitha

Bharat Rashtra Samithi MLC K. Kavitha alleged on Thursday that there were repeated attempts to merge her party with BJP. She said that she would not accept anyone's leadership other than BRS founder-president K. Chandrasekhar Rao. Talking to presspersons in Hyderabad, she made it clear that Mr. Rao was the only leader in the BRS and she had no need, whatsoever, to hold parleys with the Congress since it was a sinking ship. Accusing some leaders within the BRS, she said attempts were being made to distance her from Mr. Rao. She said those leaders were behind her defeat in the 2019 Lok Sabha polls.

A.P. realtor held for duping U.S. citizen of ₹12.5 crore

The Andhra Pradesh police on Thursday arrested a 36-year-old realtor for allegedly duping a U.S. national of ₹12.5 crore by luring him with false promises of high returns on investment in real estate. The accused, identified as Ratnakaram Satyanarayana Raju, was arrested from Sri Sathya Sai district. The police said the accused befriended Arvin Francis Mahendrakar who transferred the amount to Raju, believing that he would purchase lands in their joint names.

Fish eye

Traditional fishing boats seen engaged in fishing activity off the Visakhapatnam coast on Thursday. With the annual fishing ban for mechanised boats in effect since April 15, demand for fish remains high. However, traditional boats are exempted from the ban. K.R. DEEPAK

NH-66 collapse: PAC directs CAG to do performance audit

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Days after a section of the under-construction six-lane National Highway 66 collapsed at Kooriyad in Malappuram district of Kerala, Parliament's Public Accounts Committee (PAC), headed by Congress leader K.C. Venugopal, directed the Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) to conduct a comprehensive performance audit, scrutinising the contract terms, and the road design that led to the collapse.

As per sources, officials from both the Ministry of Road and Transport and the National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) admitted at the meeting that the collapse was due to design flaw. The panel also asked the NHAI Chairman to inspect the affected stretch. It is learnt that Mr. Venugopal said there had been multiple complaints regarding construction flaws in national highway stretches across seven districts in Kerala.

THE SPECIAL OFFICER AND COMPETENT AUTHORITY
(UNDER KPIDFE - IMA & OTHER SCAM)
3rd Floor, Podium Block, V.V Tower, Dr. Ambedkar Veedhi, Bengaluru-560001

NOTICE/INVITATION FOR E-AUCTION FOR IMMOVABLE PROPERTY

Pursuant to attachment of Immovable properties by the Government under the provisions of the Karnataka Protection of Interest of Depositors in Financial Establishments Act, 2004(KPIDFE Act) and pursuant to the absolute attachment order by the Hon'ble Special Courtthe Special Officer & Competent Authority (under KPIDFE-IMA and other Scam), is issuing notice for e-auction of the immovable property through e-auction on **'as is where is and whatever there is basis'.**
The intending bidders will be required to furnish Earnest Money Deposit (EMD) (as mentioned against each auction in the e-portal provided by the Service Provider/Karnataka Public Procurement Portal only).

SHORT DESCRIPTION OF THE IMMOVABLE PROPERTY

Properties are free of all encumbrances and are in the name of Competent Authority appointed by Government and confirmed by the Special Court under KPIDFE Act, 2004. Clear Title: RTC/Khata stands in the name of Competent Authority and Auctioning Authority

Sl. No.	DETAILS OF THE PROPERTY (Clear Title by Court in order No. MISC No. 398/2024)	MINIMUM BID PRICE (Rs)	EMD (Rs)	Bid Increase Value (Rs)
1	All the piece and parcel of immovable property bearing Assessment No.630, Door No.630, Total measuring area 288 Sq.ft situated at 34th ward, Ukkadakeri, HospetTaluk, Vijayanagara District (Previously Bellary District). The property is bounded by East by: Road, West by: Shankar's House, North by: Halamma's House, South by: Huligemma's House. Google Map: https://maps.app.goo.gl/dJHycBjUg5zUVG3n9 Latitude and Longitude : 15°15'52.8"N 76°23'20.6"E	10,63,000/-	1,07,000/-	11,000/-

Date of Pre-bid meeting & time and Place	Date of Inspection & time	Last Date of Submission of Bids & EMD submission	Date & Time of E Auction
7th July 2025, 3 pm to 4 pm Place: O/o SPLOCA, 3rd Floor Podium Block, VV Tower, Bengaluru-01	8th July 2025 11:00am to 05:00pm	10th July 2025 Before 5pm	11th July 2025 11 am to 1 pm

For Registration & Online Auction, you can login to: **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** (Helpdesk No: 080-46010000, 080-68948777) The interested bidders who require auction related information can contact **Assistant Commissioner, Office of the Special Officer & Competent Authority,** 3rd Floor, Podium Block, Visveswariah Towers, Dr.AmbedkarVeedi, Bengaluru-560001, e-mail ID: **splocaeauction@gmail.com** or Contact Mob. No 6364403715.

Sd/-
The Special Officer & Competent Authority,
(Under KPIDFE - IMA & Other Scam) Bengaluru, Karnataka

Place: Bengaluru
Date: 26-05-2025
DIPR/CP/908/ZEN/2025-26

Slow and unsteady

Ethnic violence has abated but peace continues to elude Manipur

It has been a little over three months since President's Rule was declared in Manipur, after a disastrous spell when the State government, led by the Bharatiya Janata Party's N. Biren Singh, failed to de-escalate tensions in the ongoing ethnic conflict. By all accounts, there has been a significant reduction in gun violence and arson, which had flared up sporadically since the ethnic conflagration began in May 2023. Some of the weapons that were looted from police constabularies have been returned and the militants do not seem to be roaming around with sophisticated weapons impudently as they did earlier. But that has not meant that peace has returned. The free movement of people and goods across highways and between the hills and the valley continues to be impeded. There have been no signs of any thaw in the hostility between the two communities that were at the centre of the conflict and this has meant that those displaced, and who lost their homes in the valley and the hills, are yet to return. That the peace has been fragile was seen in the way the Imphal valley convulsed in protests following a recent incident during the run-up to the Shirui Lily festival, in Ukhrul district in late May. When a State transport bus with journalists drove close to Kuki-Zo inhabited areas, some security personnel placed stickers on the bus to hide the name of the State - an act that riled civil society groups in the valley. Ostensibly, this was done to allow for their safe passage through the Kuki-Zo areas but it only antagonised groups in the valley who saw this as an act of kowtowing to demands for a "separate administration", one of the key demands of the Kuki-Zo community representatives. Apparently, some of the latter's partisans had opposed transport services through their areas but stepped back after a stern stance by the organisers of the festival.

It is understandable that the Union government has to walk a tightrope in Manipur, and that explains the relatively slow pace of a return to "true normalcy". But the government must take strong steps in disarming insurgent and chauvinist groups who continue to hold sway in the valley and the hills. It should also send out a message that these sections will not represent the respective communities in the peace and political initiatives that are needed to resolve the conflict. The distrust of state institutions has led to ethnic partisans setting the discourse. In order to reverse this situation, a stronger commitment to implementing the rule of law, while focusing on rehabilitating the victims of the conflict, is the need of the hour. Meanwhile, there have been calls for the restoration of the State Assembly, with some MLAs claiming majority support for a fresh iteration of an NDA government. This step should only be considered if there is some consensus on steps to be taken towards normalcy among the elected representatives of the respective communities and civil society actors.

Danger in the sea

India's response to maritime disasters must be faster and better

On the afternoon of May 24, *MSC Elsa 3*, carrying more than 640 containers, started tilting off the coast of Kochi, apparently due to an operational problem. The nearly three-decade-old ship was said to be structurally safe. The crew abandoned the ship after unsuccessfully trying to right her. Now, *Elsa 3* is lying at the bottom of the seabed 50 metres below. As per the cargo manifest, officials say the ship had 13 containers with hazardous goods. Twelve had calcium carbide, a reactive compound, and one had "rubber solution". Some 50 containers, many empty, were floating and getting tossed around by monsoon weather. Officials say the rubber solution has reacted with the seawater and accounts for the plastic pellets being found on the Kerala coast. Five containers with calcium carbide, another pollution hazard, are lying on the seabed and need to be safely disposed of before they cause damage. Some oil pollution has also been reported. There is as yet no clarity on how to safely dispose of the plastic pellets.

Though containers have tremendously boosted world trade logistics, oversight and control of what each container that passes several hands, ships and yards has is a global problem. Besides the 600-odd containers still lodged inside *Elsa 3*'s cargo space, some 365 tonnes of heavy fuel oil and 60 tonnes of diesel lie inside the ship's tanks. That much of the oil has not seeped out yet is fortuitous but there is every possibility of it happening if quick action is not taken. The Chennai coast was ravaged by 250 tonnes of heavy fuel oil from an oil tanker that collided with an LPG carrier in 2017. *MSC Elsa 3* is a toxic dump that needs to be quickly disposed of. Salvers are being engaged and they will follow international insurance protocols. The National Oil Spill Disaster Contingency Plan (NOS-DCP) names the Coast Guard as the nodal agency for such responses. In Chennai, the response was delayed by several days and there was much confusion and a lack of coordination between agencies. In Kerala, however, there has been enough time to rig up an effective response. With ambitious plans for economic growth that will inevitably lead to a surge in ship traffic, the government has also planned to draw more national and global transshipment traffic into India's waters. India is only set to see a great number and variety of ships of varying cargoes on its coast in future. The Kerala response will show how well prepared India is to handle a major maritime disaster.

The case for a special fiscal package for Andhra Pradesh

Duvvuri Subbarao

is former Finance Secretary to the Government of India and a former Governor, Reserve Bank of India

Andhra Pradesh is in deep financial distress and there is a strong case for the Finance Commission to make a special dispensation for the State.

When Telangana was carved out of the larger State of Andhra Pradesh in 2014, the rump State of Andhra Pradesh demanded that it be given a 'special category' status to cope with the loss of Hyderabad, the dominant tax generator of the combined State. Even though then Prime Minister Manmohan Singh gave an assurance on the floor of Parliament conceding this demand, the Act dividing the State did not make any provision for a special category status.

The division of the State took effect in June 2014, a time when the National Democratic Alliance government had replaced the United Progressive Alliance government at the Centre; N. Chandrababu Naidu became the first Chief Minister of the rump State of Andhra Pradesh. All through his term (2014-19), Mr. Naidu fought energetically for the parliamentary assurance to be honoured but the Narendra Modi government stonewalled the plea on the ground that the Centre had discontinued the 'special category' scheme on the advice of the 14th Finance Commission.

Mr. Naidu, who returned as the Chief Minister in 2024 is staring at near empty coffers after the blows of structural fiscal handicaps and the pressure of funding unaffordable freebies under the preceding Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy government (which he topped up handsomely in his own campaign). Competitive freebies under electoral pressures are a State-level issue and the Centre is under no obligation to come to the State's aid. But the Centre has a definite obligation to compensate Andhra Pradesh for the structural fiscal losses it suffered on account of the bifurcation of the State.

An option

A straightforward option is for the Centre to make an exception and accord 'special category' status to Andhra Pradesh on the ground that it is only fulfilling an assurance given in Parliament. But for Andhra Pradesh itself, this may not be an attractive choice because the 'special category status' has been watered down. Unlike before, when a special category State received substantial fiscal support through Plan assistance, all that it now gets is external loans such as those from the World Bank on slightly softer terms. Such a diluted 'special category status' will be a hollow victory for Andhra Pradesh.

It is for the Finance Commission to come up with an apolitical and formula-based solution so that States that have lost fiscal capacity are not abandoned

A better option for Andhra Pradesh is to seek a special package of assistance that is more generous than a straitjacketed special category status. There are many precedents for politically driven, discretionary special packages such as the Koraput-Balangir-Kalahandi special plan for Odisha and the Bundelkhand special package for Madhya Pradesh and Uttar Pradesh. Bihar was also given a special 'pre-election' package in 2015. However, such 'one off' packages on political and discretionary grounds weaken the federal fabric and are best avoided. A neater option is for the Finance Commission to recommend a special package for Andhra Pradesh. Since the Finance Commission is an apolitical, professional body enjoying a constitutional status, its recommendation will have gravitas.

States and divisions

But what is the case for Andhra Pradesh that the Finance Commission should consider?

All divisions of States into smaller units post 1956 have been done on political, administrative or geographical considerations. This has inevitably resulted in an uneven division of fiscal capacity. There are many indicators of the fiscal capacity of a State. One of the most robust is the State's own revenue.

Consider State divisions that happened post 2000: Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh and Bihar were broken up in the year 2000, and Andhra Pradesh was divided in 2014. The table shows that in terms of per capita own revenue, in each of these cases, the carved out States, namely Uttarakhand, Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand and Telangana, gained at the expense of the rump States. But the loss in the case of Uttar Pradesh and Madhya Pradesh was relatively small when compared to that of Bihar and Andhra Pradesh.

One possible formula for a special package is that if the loss in fiscal capacity of a State on account of division is more than 10%, the Centre would give a special package spread over a limited period to compensate for the loss. On this formula, both Bihar and Andhra Pradesh will qualify for assistance.

The Finance Commission could of course consider other formulae that it thinks better capture the gain or loss in fiscal capacity. The important thing is that States such as Andhra Pradesh that have lost fiscal capacity on account of bifurcation are not abandoned to fend for themselves. It is incumbent on the Finance Commission, which is free to make recommendations to put our fiscal federalism on a sound footing, to evolve an objective, apolitical and formula-based solution to the problem.

States and finances

Change in per capita own revenue after bifurcation

S.No.	State	Year	Per capita own revenue (₹)	Change in per capita own revenue
1.	Uttar Pradesh (Mother)	2001/02	759	
	– Uttar Pradesh (Rump)		729	(-) 4%
	– Uttarakhand		1,335	(+) 75.9%
2.	Madhya Pradesh (Mother)	2001/02	1,108	
	– Madhya Pradesh (Rump)		1,041	(-)6%
	– Chhattisgarh		1,303	(+) 17.6%
3.	Bihar (Mother)	2001/02	459	
	– Bihar (Rump)		314	(-)31.6%
	– Jharkhand		905	(+)97.2%
4.	Andhra Pradesh (Mother)	2015/16	11,730	
	– Andhra Pradesh (Rump)		9,007	(-)23.2%
	– Telangana		15,623	(+)33.2%

NB: The figures relate to the year after the division of States

Source: Comptroller and Auditor General of India: Finance Accounts

Rewriting the script of early childhood education

Shaveta Sharma-Kukreja

is the Chief Executive Officer and Managing Director at Central Square Foundation

Luis Miranda

is the Chairperson and Co-founder of the Indian School of Public Policy and the Chairman of the Centre for Civil Society

"Some kids win the lottery at birth; far too many don't – and most people struggle to catch up," said the Nobel Laureate Prof. James Heckman. This holds true for India as well where its employment problem is partly a consequence of this "lottery of birth". A child born in India has a one-in-five chance of being born into poverty, affecting their health, nutrition, learning and earning potential. Yet, there is a way to beat these odds. From the decision by Uttar Pradesh to hire 11,000 dedicated Early Childhood Care and Education educators for Balavatikas to Odisha launching Shishu Vatikas and Jaduipedi Kits, States in India are showing the way.

The Heckman curve was a powerful economic model that provided a simple yet profound insight – of the relationship between age and the rate of return on investments in human capital. Heckman found that every dollar invested in early childhood education yields a return that ranges from $7 to $12, with lasting impacts: children who receive quality early education are four times more likely to have higher earnings and three times more likely to own a home as adults. By age five, many gaps in outcomes – such as earning potential and quality of life –are already evident. Children often struggle throughout life if motivation and learning habits are not nurtured early.

Learning outcomes

Yet, India's ECE system faces three major challenges. First, children are not receiving sufficient instructional time. Nearly 5.5 crore children between ages three to six are enrolled in 14 lakh operational Anganwadis and 56,000 government pre-primary schools. However, Anganwadi workers spend only 38 minutes per day on preschool instruction, which is far short of the scheduled two hours, and only 9% of pre-primary schools have a dedicated ECE teacher. We are planting trees without the right care to help them grow. The effects are reflected in learning outcomes. The India Early Childhood Education Impact Study found that only 15% of pre-primary children could match basic objects, a skill essential for letter recognition in Class one. Similarly, only 30% could identify larger and smaller numbers, which are foundational for arithmetic. As a result, children often start formal schooling without the skills they need, with many bypassing essential ECE years entirely: 2% of three-year-olds, 5.1% of four-year-olds, and nearly one-fourth of five-year-olds are enrolled directly in Class one.

Strategic investments in early childhood education and engaging parents will help young learners

The issue of resources, engaging parents

Second, the thoughtful optimisation of resources for early childhood education remains a challenge. The Government of India spends only ₹1,263 a child annually on ECE compared to ₹37,000 a student on school education – largely on producing teaching-learning materials that are often underused. There simply are not enough teachers to implement these resources, and there is a lack of oversight – one supervisor is responsible for monitoring 282 Anganwadis. To improve oversight, we need targeted funding to hire more supervisors and dedicated ECE teachers. These measures, though modest, promise high returns.

Uttar Pradesh has now moved ahead on the hiring of nearly 11,000 ECE educators for Balavatikas in all districts. The State also organised a six-day residential training programme for 50 master trainers from 13 districts to train them on ECE pedagogy. Odisha has taken the decision to open Shishu Vatikas in all government schools to make children in the age group five to six school ready.

While increased funding would lead to immediate improvements, sustaining these gains depends on engaging parents, and here lies the third challenge. Most parents care deeply about their children's education but may lack guidance on supporting early learning. Empowering parents with simple, effective ECE practices can make a significant difference. For instance, providing worksheets or encouraging their participation in ECE centre activities can deepen their involvement.

In Madhya Pradesh, the monthly Bal Choupal programme engages with parents directly by showing them the importance of play-based learning. With smartphone access nearly universal, parental engagement can be further strengthened through WhatsApp or EdTech apps, allowing parents to support their children's development.

In perspective

Reversing these odds may seem like an uphill battle, but with targeted funding and increased parental involvement, we can provide our children with the foundation they deserve.

By 2047, over a billion Indians will enter the global workforce, presenting an unprecedented opportunity to reshape India's role in the world economy. Strategic investments in ECE and engaging parents in their children's learning journey could help 200 million Indians escape the lottery of birth and give today's young learners the chance to become tomorrow's leaders. This is a critical pathway to realising India's vision of becoming a true Vishwa Guru, empowering generations to come.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Manipur situation

The intent by some in the National Democratic Alliance "to form a 'popular' government in Manipur" is strange (Page 1, May 29). That these people are unaware of the ground reality is cause for concern. The consensus of all stakeholders and a proper settlement of the ethnic conflict is what will pave the way for a conducive environment. One expects the government of the day to engage with the warring factions and find a lasting solution to the crisis.

Prabhu Raj R.,
Bengaluru

MP's line

Congress Member of Parliament Shashi Tharoor has done a good job of turning the defence of India's position *vis-à-vis* Pakistan into an unqualified eulogisation of the top leader in the course of India's diplomatic outreach (Inside pages, "Shashi Tharoor faces flak from his own party for remarks on LoC breach", May 29). Reading between the lines, one can say with certainty that the MP awards more marks to the government of the day than previous Congress governments in dealing with Pakistan. For all his scholarship, sophistication, sensitivity and sensibility, are his words laced with the belligerence typical of right-wing hardliners? Is there a desperation to demonstrate that he wears his patriotism on his sleeves? A poet dreamt that he was a butterfly and was left to wonder which way he was dreaming. The MP seems to share the poet's predicament.

G. David Milton,
Maruthancode, Tamil Nadu

Had the erudite leader remembered the India-Pakistan war of 1965, he would have known that the Indian Army had not only crossed the ceasefire line but also captured the entire Haji Pir bulge in the Battle of Haji Pir Pass. It marked a turning point in the conflict and held until vacated under the Tashkent Agreement. Not recognising such significant military achievements would be more than unfair to the valour and the sacrifices of India's armed forces.

S.K. Choudhury,
Bengaluru

The MP's statements have sparked understandable outrage within his own party. While political maturity involves acknowledging national achievements beyond party lines, it is troubling when such statements blur ideological boundaries and confuse people.
By appearing to align with the ruling party's narrative, the MP risks weakening the Opposition's position and inadvertently bolstering the BJP's propaganda. It is essential for Opposition leaders to maintain clarity, consistency, and an accountability to the values their party stands for.

Rukma Sharma
Jalandhar, Punjab

Digital literacy

Digital literacy in rural India is essential. Many lack Internet access and basic digital skills. Governments and schools must provide the necessary infrastructure and training. Bridging this divide ensures equal opportunities for education, jobs, and growth. As a student, I believe it is time to act.

Buvan Doolla,
Mumbai

Inadequate

Torrential rainfall following the early onset of the southwest monsoon has undoubtedly exposed the creaky drainage infrastructure of Indian cities. There is no doubt that several of India's metropolitan cities do not have well-equipped drainage systems to deal with the recent changes in weather patterns. With weather vagaries becoming the new normal, cities have to invest more to revamp their drainage systems to avoid the flooding that affects livelihoods and causes damage.

M. Jeyaram,
Sholavandan, Tamil Nadu

Letters emailed to letters@thehindu.co.in must carry the postal address and the full name.

Is the three-year practice mandate for judicial service welcome?

PARLEY

Prashant Reddy T.

Co-author of 'Tareekh Pe Justice: Reforms for India's District Courts'

Bharat Chugh

Delhi-based advocate and former civil judge

On May 20, the Supreme Court restored a minimum of three years of legal practice as a mandatory condition to apply for entry-level judicial service. The ruling reverses the Court's 2002 decision that had removed the practice requirement, originally mandated by a 1993 judgment. Is the three-year practice requirement a welcome move? Prashant Reddy T. and Bharat Chugh discuss the question in a conversation moderated by **Aaratrika Bhaumik.** Edited excerpts:

Is this a welcome reform?

Bharat Chugh: I do not believe that three years of practice at the Bar significantly enhances a candidate's legal acumen or preparedness for judicial office. Such a brief tenure is unlikely to provide any meaningful exposure to the nuances and complexities of legal practice. The verdict also appears unsupported by empirical evidence and does little to address the systemic concerns it purports to resolve.

Prashant Reddy: I believe that it is a step in the right direction. However, it may still be insufficient. Ideally, candidates should get more courtroom experience before assuming judicial office. The near-consensus among the High Courts offers compelling empirical evidence to this effect. Barring two, all 23 High Courts have opined that the recruitment of young law graduates into the judicial service has yielded unsatisfactory outcomes. Moreover, in 2021, the Bar Council of India issued a scathing statement asserting that judges who do not have practical experience at the Bar were "found to be incapable and inept in handling matters".

Is it more effective to focus on strengthening the judicial training programmes instead?

PR: Judicial academies are under-equipped to provide meaningful training to newly appointed judges. More importantly, it is difficult to impart real-world skills within a classroom setting. It would require an exceptionally low faculty-to-trainee ratio to offer the kind of individual feedback and mentorship that these skills demand. Moreover, what cannot be taught in any institutional setting are lived experiences. There is a vast difference in how a recent law graduate perceives the world compared to someone in their mid-30s or 40s. Over time, personal and professional experiences foster a degree of emotional maturity that is essential for judicial decision-making. This point was highlighted in the Uttarakhand High Court's feedback to the Supreme Court committee examining the issue.

A view of the Supreme Court of India. ANI

BC: I agree that a deeper understanding of life is essential to becoming a capable judge and that such understanding cannot be cultivated solely within the confines of a one-year judicial training programme. However, if we expect judges to enter the system with substantial life and professional experience, we must make the judicial service far more attractive than it is. By the time a candidate is appointed as a junior civil judge or first-class magistrate, they are likely to be around 29-30 years old. Given the working conditions and limited incentives, this is hardly an appealing career path, especially when they could instead qualify directly for the District Judge cadre by the age of 33 or 35.

How can we ensure the practice requirement isn't reduced to a mere formality?

BC: As you rightly said, it risks becoming a mere formality. The verdict does not lay down any concrete parameters to assess such experience. This not only undermines the purpose of such certification but also renders the process exclusionary, placing at a disadvantage those who lack mentorship or access to established professionals in the field. If the assessment is to be documentation-based, a more structured and transparent system is essential. For instance, a digital diary could be instituted, requiring candidates to upload verifiable records, such as order sheets and details of court appearances, onto a secure portal. The verdict also does not provide clarity on how candidates working in non-litigating roles, such as those employed by public sector undertakings or in-house legal departments, are to be assessed.

PR: I agree with Bharat. It is a fundamentally flawed and poorly conceived reform. Had the process been more democratic, with a public consultation mechanism in place, stakeholders could have pointed out the numerous practical challenges associated with implementing such a measure. The disconnect becomes even more evident when one considers the realities of legal practice in India. In their formative years, most junior advocates are relegated to peripheral tasks, such as seeking adjournments, rather than engaging in substantive litigation. To regard such limited exposure as meaningful courtroom experience is deeply problematic.

> Had the process been more democratic, with a public consultation mechanism in place, stakeholders could have pointed out the numerous practical challenges associated with implementing such a measure.
> **PRASHANT REDDY T.**

Will it deter top talent from joining the judiciary, particularly candidates from marginalised or impoverished backgrounds?

BC: Yes. Previously, when such a requirement was absent, the judicial service offered a level playing field and a meaningful route to public service for many law graduates, particularly those from lesser-known law schools. Moreover, those who discover an aptitude for litigation may be reluctant to abandon their practice to start over as entry-level civil judges or magistrates in their late 20s.

It is equally important to note that persistent delays and procedural lapses in the conduct of judicial service exams deter serious candidates. Without systemic reforms, even if these exams attract a large number of applicants, the judiciary risks losing individuals best equipped to strengthen and transform the institution.

PR: As the qualifying age for the exam increases, the pool of applicants is likely to shrink. Offering the same pay and incentives to candidates in their late 20s as were previously offered to those in their early 20s will inevitably diminish the exam's appeal. That said, given the intense competition and limited opportunities in litigation, there will always be law graduates interested in joining the judicial service. However, the more pressing question is whether the exam attracts the most capable candidates. In my view, the current exam format, even with the addition of an interview stage, does not succeed in drawing the best talent.

The India Justice Report shows that the proportion of women judges in the district judiciary rose from 30% in 2017 to 38.3% in 2025. Could the practice requirement disproportionately impact women?

PR: Certainly. For many women, the lack of financial resources or familial support makes it difficult to sustain three years of litigation. In contrast, a career in the judiciary offers greater financial stability and social legitimacy. That said, most States have reservations for women in the district judiciary, which will help preserve its appeal as a viable career option. However, it is vital to recognise that the composition of the Bench is intrinsically tied to the diversity of the Bar. A judiciary that lacks gender representation often mirrors broader systemic exclusions within the legal profession.

BC: In recent years, notable strides have been made in enhancing gender representation within the district judiciary. Without this added hurdle, the progress might have reflected in the higher judiciary. Litigation presents many entry-level barriers for women; many encounter resistance from conservative families that are more supportive of careers in academia or corporate law. Moreover, increasing the presence of women on the Bench is not just a matter of representation, it also helps foster greater sensitivity within the legal system.

Is this an instance of 'courtroom policymaking'? If so, should it be avoided?

PR: Absolutely. This is also a case of constitutional impropriety. Under Article 234 of the Constitution, the power to prescribe eligibility criteria for members of the district judiciary rests with the executive, in consultation with the State Public Service Commissions and the respective High Courts. The Supreme Court has no authority to appropriate these powers for itself. Yet, it has been doing so since the first All India Judges' Association case in 1991.

BC: Before advocating a reform of this scale, it is essential to gather thorough and reliable data. For instance, are there more complaints or disciplinary proceedings against judicial officers without prior advocacy experience compared to those who have it? Is the system able to retain judicial officers over time? These are complex questions that require data-driven analysis – something the Court, with its limited jurisdiction and time-bound hearings, is not equipped to carry out effectively.

To listen to the full interview
Scan the code or go to the link
www.thehindu.com

NOTEBOOK

The movie marketing mania

Film-makers have always gone all out to promote their films in person, but in the age of social media, these efforts can get tiresome

Srinivasa Ramanujam

I met Kamal Haasan for an interview last Friday in Chennai for his much-awaited movie, *Thug Life*. The next day, he was at Sri Sai Ram College along with the entire team for the film's audio launch. On Sunday, he was present at the finals of a popular musical reality contest, Vijay's Super Singer Junior 10. In between these two big music events, I decided to watch an IPL match. Sure enough, Mr. Haasan was there on TV too, at a special programme hosted by Star Sports Tamil featuring the *Thug Life* team.

"I enjoy talking. It's a learning experience for me, because only when I talk, people get an opportunity to correct me," he told me, when I pointed out his hectic travel schedule for the film's promotions.

It is hard to escape the film and its team, as *Thug Life*'s PR game has been on an overdrive in the last few weeks. I'm sure even die-hard fans of Mani Ratnam and Mr. Haasan are tired of it. At the same time, it is also heartening to watch a 70-year-old Haasan croon old melodies with a little girl, or shake a leg to a fast-paced number on stage.

The world has changed a lot over the last 20 years when I began as a rookie reporter. I remember attending the launch of Mr. Haasan's *Mumbai Xpress*. The invite to the event was quirky: it was printed on a fake ₹500 currency note. The title read 'Raajkamal Bank of India' – a reference to both the Reserve Bank of India and his production house, Raajkamal Productions. The line below said: 'I promise entertainment for the entire family'.

Before the age of mobile phones and social media, information about a film or album was scarce, so film-makers went all out to market their films in person. Some adopted traditional ways of promoting their films, such as through newspaper advertisements, while some were others were more innovative.

Promotional material used to be a collector's delight. Cassettes in the 1990s gave us a quick peek into what to expect: the audio cassette of Shankar's *Jeans*, with music by A.R. Rahman, was packed in denim in 1998. I remember walking into a neighbourhood shop to buy a special edition audio cassette of *Laysa Laysa* in 2003. Priced at ₹10 at a time when cassettes cost around ₹50, it had just two versions of the title song in its Side A and Side B, serving as a curtain-raiser for the album composed by Harris Jayaraj. In contrast, today's audio invites arrive as WhatsApp notifications.

Over time, promotions became more and more geared towards grabbing eyeballs. I remember the buzz surrounding the launch of *Madraspattinam* in 2010 – the invite featured old maps of Madras and old currency, and the venue of the event, Chennai Trade Centre, was transformed into the Madras of the 1940s, replete with soldiers and people marching along shouting slogans.

Actors too have various promotion styles. While Rajinikanth did not personally promote *Kabali*, the 2016 film was a massive hit in terms of promotions. Mr. Rajinikanth's face was everywhere, from billboards to aircraft. Parthiban has always been the most wacky. Attendees to his *Iravin Nizhal* audio launch in 2022 were greeted with a mouth organ, while the invite to *Teenz* (2024) came with a large ruler and pen. On the other hand, actors such as Ajith and Nayanthara stay away from promotions.

Today's launches are aimed at digital audiences. 'Singles' and 'hook steps' rule the roost. Unlike earlier, people unfortunately seldom wait for an entire album with songs in different genres to drop. Songs themselves are chopped up in films given our dwindling attention spans. The goal seems to be to come up with a catchy line and a distinctive dance that will go 'viral' on Instagram. So much so that the team of *Thug Life* had a 'Thugfluencers' event in Chennai recently, and reels of Mr. Haasan flooded Instagram feeds. Is there any place where Kamal Haasan, aka *Vinveli Nayagan* (Space Hero), is not present?

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PICTURE OF THE WEEK | 'Hi, we are ready to be clicked'

A pair of meerkats peer at visitors from their glass enclosure at the Indira Gandhi Zoological Park in Visakhapatnam. K.R. DEEPAK

Shot on OnePlus #FramesofIndia

FROM THE ARCHIVES The Hindu.

FIFTY YEARS AGO MAY 30, 1975

Newspapers hold their own against TV and radio

New Delhi, May 29: The saturation point for the press, radio and television appears to have been reached at 14 European States as well as in Australia, Canada, Cuba, Japan, New Zealand, the U.S. and the USSR, according to a unique survey of the mass media in 200 countries by the UNESCO.

The survey shows that despite retreats in some traditionally strong newspaper reading countries, statistically the press across the world is about holding its own. For example France and the United Kingdom may now have fewer newspapers and smaller circulations than ten years ago but Europe still has more dailies, non-dailies and periodicals than any other region of the world.

The British, once the world's champion newspaper readers, have yielded the title to the Japanese and Swedes, who buy more than one newspaper for every two persons, the survey reveals. Africa still has nine countries without a daily and circulations are low, but the signs are that the press will develop there as it has done in other parts of the world. Asia has 20 countries having only one copy of a newspaper for every 50 persons, but Japan heads the circulation table and China with 1,908 newspapers tops the list for the number of newspaper titles.

A HUNDRED YEARS AGO MAY 30, 1925

North-Western Ry. Strike

Lahore, May 29: According to an N.W. Ry. Union communique the following resolution was passed in an open meeting of the strikers held at Lahore yesterday: This mass meeting of the strikers at Lahore assures Messrs. Hall, Miller and Khan that if the Railway authorities do not negotiate an honourable settlement with them, they are quite determined to carry on the strike for another month with a view to to completely disorganise the N.W. Railway administration by closing each and every Railway station on the line and thus compel the authorities to listen to their demands.

From Page One

Setback for Trump as U.S. court blocks tariffs

White House spokesperson Karoline Leavitt told presspersons that the judges "brazenly abused their judicial power to usurp the authority of President Trump."

The White House also said that top U.S. officials have been in touch with their counterparts in other countries to discuss Wednesday's ruling.

The ruling marks a significant setback to Mr. Trump as he bids to redraw the U.S. trading relationship with the world by forcing governments to the negotiating table through tough new tariffs.

Mr. Trump had argued that U.S.'s trade deficits and the threat posed by the influx of drugs constituted a "national emergency" that justified widespread tariffs.

The federal trade court was ruling in two separate cases – brought by businesses and a coalition of State governments – arguing that the President had violated Congress's power of the purse.

The judges said the cases rested on whether the International Emergency Economic Powers Act of 1977 (IEEPA) delegate such powers to the President "in the form of authority to impose unlimited tariffs on goods from nearly every country in the world". The judges stated that any interpretation of the IEEPA that "delegates unlimited tariff authority is unconstitutional".

"It is not for unelected judges to decide how to properly address a national emergency," White House spokesman Kush Desai said in a statement.

"President Trump pledged to put America first, and the administration is committed to using every lever of executive power to address this crisis and restore American greatness," Mr. Desai said.

The ruling comes as Mr. Trump was using the tariffs as leverage in trade negotiations with friends and foes, including the European Union and China.

Beijing, which was hit by 145% tariffs before they were sharply reduced to give space for negotiations, reacted to the court ruling by saying the U.S. should scrap the levies.

Mr. Trump unveiled sweeping import duties on nearly all trading partners on April 2, at a baseline 10%, plus steeper levies on dozens of economies, including China and the EU. The U.S. court's ruling also quashes duties that Mr. Trump imposed on Canada, Mexico and China separately using emergency powers. Asian markets rallied on Thursday and U.S. futures pointed to early gains, but Europe was mixed, with London in the red while Paris and Frankfurt rose.

India hopes U.S. will clear visas on merit

The MEA spokesperson also pointed out that more than 3,30,000 Indian students were studying in the U.S., as of 2023-24. Indians made up nearly 30% of the roughly 1.1 million international students in the U.S. that year, the biggest bloc from any country.

The controversy over the student visas, the latest hiccup to hit India-U.S. relations, came even as Foreign Secretary Vikram Misri ended his three-day visit to Washington.

The MEA spokesperson did not confirm whether the pause in visas, or the Trump administration's latest repetition of claims that the U.S. mediated the India-Pakistan ceasefire using trade as leverage, were issues raised during Mr. Misri's meetings, particularly his talks with U.S. Deputy Secretary of State Christopher Landau.

"[Mr. Landau and Mr. Misri] agreed that technology, trade, and talent will shape the India-U.S. partnership in the 21st century," Mr. Jaiswal said, adding that they committed to strengthening the comprehensive global strategic partnership between the two countries. "So whether this particular issue was raised [or not], I would say that all issues of mutual interest was discussed between India and the United States.

Pakistan only a cradle of terrorism, has nothing good to offer: Modi

Shiv Sahay Singh
KOLKATA

Observing that Operation Sindoor was far from over, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said on Thursday that Pakistan had nothing positive to offer to the world, and the country only "nurtured terrorism".

"We destroyed their terror hideouts, which Pakistan could not have imagined ever being possible," he said while addressing a public meeting at Alipurduar in West Bengal.

Mr. Modi said that soon after the partition of the country in 1947, Pakistan launched terror strikes against India. He also touched on the Bangladesh War of Liberation in 1971 and said that nobody could forget the Pakistani Army's campaign of rape and murder there.

"Terror and genocide are the biggest expertise of the Pakistani Army. The Pakistani Army knows defeat is certain if there is a full-blown war; that is why they take the support of terrorists," the Prime Minister said.

Speaking of Operation Sindoor, Mr. Modi also invoked the symbolism of *Sindoor Khela,* a cultural practice in West Bengal.

No talks till Pakistan renounces terror, vacates PoK: India

Any India-Pak. engagement must be bilateral, says MEA spokesperson; India open to discussing Pakistan handing over noted terrorists, he adds

Kallol Bhattacherjee
NEW DELHI

Any engagement with Pakistan will have to be "bilateral", but India will not engage with its neighbour on issues such as trade, the Indus Waters Treaty, or Jammu and Kashmir as long as Pakistan continues to support cross-border terrorism against India, the Ministry of External Affairs said on Thursday.

"We are clear that talks and terror don't go together. On terrorism itself, we are open to discussing the handing over to India of noted terrorists whose list was given to Pakistan some years ago. I would like to underline that any bilateral discussion on Jammu and Kashmir will only be on the vacation of illegally occupied Indian territory by Pakistan, and the Indus Waters Treaty will remain in abeyance until Pakistan credibly and irrevocably abjures cross-border terrorism," MEA Spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal said at a weekly press briefing.

> I would like to underline that any bilateral discussion on Jammu and Kashmir will only be on the vacation of illegally occupied Indian territory by Pakistan, and the Indus Waters Treaty will remain in abeyance until Pakistan credibly and irrevocably abjures cross-border terrorism
>
> **RANDHIR JAISWAL**
> **MEA Spokesperson**

"You are well aware of our position that any India-Pakistan engagement has to be bilateral," he said, emphasising the established modality of interaction between the two sides.

Against the backdrop of Operation Sindoor, during which India bombed multiple Pakistani locations linked to proscribed terrorist outfits such as Lashkar-e-Taiba and Jaish-e-Mohammed, officials have pointed out that the two sides have maintained diplomatic missions in each other's capitals, discounting the space for third-party mediation.

The Ministry's remarks came in the context of a rally in Lahore addressed by several wanted terrorists from the Lashkar-e-Taiba, including Talha Saeed and Muzammil Hashmi.

A video clip from the rally that has gone viral shows Mr. Hashmi threatening India with more cross-border terror attacks.

The rally stands in stark contrast to the multi-nation diplomacy that Pakistan Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif has carried out over the past week, visiting Turkey, Azerbaijan, and Iran, and offering to hold talks with India on multiple issues, including Kashmir and the Indus Waters Treaty.

In response, Mr. Jaiswal said that India's policy on Pakistan has been "clear and consistent".

People of PoJK will voluntarily return to India, says Rajnath

Devesh K. Pandey
NEW DELHI

Rajnath Singh

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh on Thursday said the people of Pakistan-occupied Jammu and Kashmir (PoJK) were part of the Indian family and though geographically and politically separated, they would voluntarily return to the mainstream of India someday.

"I believe that the people of PoK (Pakistan occupied Kashmir) are part of our family. We are committed to the resolve of *Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat*, and have full faith that our brothers, who are geographically and politically separated from us today, will one day return to the mainstream of India on their own, following their inner voice... most people there [in PoJK] feel a deep connection with India; only a handful have been misled," Mr. Singh said at the Confederation of Indian Industry Annual Business Summit 2025.

India has always followed the path of love, unity, and truth, he said. "Integration of PoK with India depends on the cultural, social, and economic prosperity of this country..."

Stating that India has redefined its strategy and response to terrorism, Mr. Singh said future talks with Pakistan would solely focus on terrorism and PoJK. "Pakistan has now realised that the business of terrorism is not cost-effective and would come with a heavy price," he said.

On self-reliance in the defence sector, Mr. Singh said India had emerged as a producer and exporter under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi. "Through 'Make in India', there will be a premium on everything indigenously made, just like there was once on 'Made in Japan'. This will open new doors of prosperity in our country," he said, asserting that "Make in India" was an essential component of India's national security.

"If we did not have this capability, Indian forces would not have been able to take such effective action against terrorism," he said, referring to the successful Operation Sindoor.

Amit Shah arrives in J&K to review security situation, plans for Amarnath Yatra

Peerzada Ashiq
JAMMU

L-G Manoj Sinha and Minister Amit Shah at the security review meeting, in Jammu on Thursday. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Union Home Minister Amit Shah arrived in Jammu and Kashmir on Thursday on a two-day visit. He will review the security situation arising out of the recent military confrontation between India and Pakistan and the measures to be put in place for the upcoming Amarnath Yatra.

Mr. Shah arrived in Jammu in the evening and was joined by Lieutenant-Governor Manoj Sinha at the Raj Bhavan for a joint security review with the top officials of various security agencies operating in the Union Territory, including the J&K Police, the BSF and the CRPF.

Officials said Mr. Shah would be apprised of the current situation and the additional measures required for a safe and secure yatra, besides steps to encourage the return of tourists to Kashmir.

Mr. Shah will be briefed about the multi-tier security arrangements being put in place for the Amarnath Yatra that starts on July 3 this year. One of the twin yatra routes in Kashmir passes through south Kashmir's Pahalgam, almost the same ridge where terrorists killed 26 civilians on April 22. Security for the yatra remains a challenge for security agencies. This year, additional troops will be deployed in the wake of the Pahalgam terror attack, officials said.

Officials said there will be a discussion on the gradual reopening of around 48 destinations, which have remained out of bounds since the attack.

BSF fortifies village guards initiative with arms training for Jammu border residents

Vijaita Singh
NEW DELHI

Civilians will be trained as the 'second line of defence', a government official said.

Post Operation Sindoor, the Border Security Force has started arms training for village defence guards (VDGs) along the Jammu border with Pakistan. Civilians residing in border villages are being trained as the "second line of defence" in the wake of infiltration by terrorists and terror attacks in Jammu and Kashmir, a senior government official said on Thursday.

The Union Home Ministry has also sanctioned the deployment of more than 52,000 Central Armed Police Force (CAPF) personnel for the Amarnath Yatra commencing on July 3.

As many as 581 companies, each comprising 90-100 personnel, will be deployed for the security of the pilgrimage, which concludes on August 9.

This will be one of the highest deployments of security personnel in the area in at least the past three years.

The yatra route is close to the Baisaran meadow in Kashmir Valley's Pahalgam, which witnessed a deadly terror attack on April 22 that left 26 civilians dead.

Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) Director-General G.P. Singh has been camping in J&K to review security preparedness.

Home Minister Amit Shah is set to review the arrangements during his two-day visit to Jammu and Poonch on Thursday and Friday.

The VDG initiative was revived in 2022 in the Jammu belt after a gap of over 20 years in the wake of a resurgence of terrorist activity in the region. In the past three years, more than 22 civilians have been killed in targeted terrorist attacks in the Jammu region, which includes the Chenab Valley, Kathua-Samba and areas south of the Pir Panjal comprising Rajouri and Poonch districts.

Centre's MSP doesn't cover input costs, says Congress

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Congress on Thursday said the minimum support price (MSP) for Kharif crops did not even cover the input costs and accused the Modi government of deceiving farmers in the name of MSP.

"The MSP has become the maximum suffering for the producers," Congress general secretary Randeep Surjewala told reporters at a press conference.

Mr. Surjewala said the Centre is crediting itself for declaring a higher MSP for crops, but the reality is that the MSP is far lower than the "cost (C2) plus 50 per cent" formula recommended by the Swaminathan Commission.

Air Chief Marshal flags delays in defence projects, invites private players to contribute

Devesh K. Pandey
NEW DELHI

Air Chief Marshal A.P. Singh addressing the Confederation of Indian Industry Annual Business Summit in New Delhi on Thursday. PTI

Air Chief Marshal A.P. Singh, Chief of the Air Staff (CAS), on Thursday expressed concern over delays in the delivery of defence projects. He urged private industry to rise to the occasion, develop world-class products, and contribute alongside other stakeholders to "making India a great nation".

"Timeline is a big issue... not a single project that I can think of has been completed on time. This is something we have to look at. Why should we promise something which cannot be achieved? While signing the contract itself, sometimes we are sure that it is not going to come up, but we just sign the contract," said the Air Force chief at the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) Annual Business Summit 2025.

Stating that it was a great opportunity for Indian private industry with the opening up of the defence sector, he said firms should rise to the occasion and join hands to make world-class military equipment, even if the profit is not up to their expectation.

He called upon stakeholders to ensure that they did their best on their part as links in the bigger chain at the national level to plug any shortcomings. "Building trust is not required with the armed forces, but retaining that trust depends on a lot of actions... we have to keep reinforcing that trust," he said.

Regarding the "professionally executed" Operation Sindoor, the Air Chief described it as a national victory.

He said that with the changing character of war and the introduction of new technologies, there was a need to realign the approach, which was already being done. "I am sure, since we have been able to come up to the challenge till now, in future also we will be able to deliver the goods as a nation," he said.

Air Chief Marshal Singh stated that the government's decision to involve private industry in the Advanced Medium Combat Aircraft (AMCA) project was a "big step", which showed the kind of confidence the nation had in the private sector.

He said Operation Sindoor showed the importance of having effective air power.

"As far as air power is concerned, we need to make sure that we have the capability plus the capacity. We cannot just talk about producing in India; we need to start designing and developing in India also. When it comes to producing in numbers, the capacity aspect comes in. We need to have this trust between the forces and the industry continued...," he said.

Bangladesh must focus on its own issues: MEA

Kallol Bhattacherjee
NEW DELHI

India on Thursday reminded Dhaka that the "responsibility for law and order and governance" of Bangladesh lies with the interim government of the country, with the Ministry of External Affairs spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal warning that attempts to "deflect attention" would not solve the country's problems. "Such statements do not solve the problem – they seem like an attempt to avoid accountability," he added.

His remarks came days after Bangladesh Chief Adviser Mohammed Yunus said India's "hegemony" was "destabilising" Bangladesh.

APPEAL

Baby Aditri Konra, Hospital No. MH016614401, 1 year 11 months daughter of Mr. Lalu Konra admitted Manipal Hospitals is diagnosed to be suffering from Congenital Heart Diseases S,D,S Levocardia, Supramitral Membrane with Parachute MV – Moderate MS and Mild MR, Subaortic Membrane with Moderate LVOT Obstruction, Trivial to Mild AR, Moderate PAH. She requires to undergo MV Repair and Subaortic Membrane Excision. The esimated cost of the surgery **Rs. 4,50,000/-**.

Kindly send donation however small by Cheque/D.D/M.O Favouring **Save Poor Lives** A/c Aditri Konra. **Our Account Details:** S/B Account No. 20000913487, State Bank of India, R.A. Puram, and IFSC CODE: SBIN0001855, you can donate through Google Pay No. **9884607377**, UPI Id: **savepoorlives@oksbi**. All donations are exempted under 80G of I.T. ACT.

SAVE POOR LIVES REGISTERED PUBLIC CHARITABLE TRUST, Flat No. A1, Ceebros Garden, Ground Floor, Old No. 76 Kamarajar Salai, Raja Annamalaipuram, Chennai - 600 028. Contact No. **044 42044165 & 044 35691848,** Mobile: **9884607377,** Email: **savepoorlives@gmail.com**. Our website: **www.savepoorlives.com**

No let-up in war of words between Congress leaders and Tharoor

Thiruvananthapuram MP describes his critics in the party as zealots and trolls; Pawan Khera quotes from his 2018 book *The Paradoxical Prime Minister*; Randeep Surjewala tries to calm nerves saying matter should not become acrimonious

Sandeep Phukan
NEW DELHI

The war of words between a few Congress leaders and their party colleague Shashi Tharoor intensified on Thursday over the Thiruvananthapuram MP's comment that India had crossed the Line of Control (LoC) to target Pakistani terror camps for the first time during the Uri surgical strikes in 2016.

Mr. Tharoor, who is leading a multi-party delegation to five countries, described his critics as "zealots" and "trolls", while trying to explain the context of his statement on surgical strikes.

Hitting back, Pawan Khera, who heads the Congress's media and publicity wing, posted on X a portion from Mr. Tharoor's 2018 book *The Paradoxical Prime Minister: Narendra Modi and his India,* in which he had accused the Modi government of "shameless exploitation of the 2016 surgical strikes".

Shashi Tharoor, who is leading a multi-party delegation abroad, made the comments during his visit to Panama. X/@SHASHITHAROOR

The political controversy erupted on Wednesday after Mr. Tharoor, addressing a public event in Panama to explain India's stance on the Pahalgam terror attack and Operation Sindoor, said India had crossed the LoC to target Pakistani terror launch pads for the first time in 2016 to avenge the Uri terror attacks. This had prompted Congress leader Udit Raj to dub Mr. Tharoor as a "super spokesperson of the BJP" in a social media post on Wednesday and it was reposted by Congress communication chief Jairam Ramesh and Mr. Khera as a sign of endorsement.

Mr. Tharoor, in a post on X, said, "For those zealots fulminating about my supposed ignorance of Indian valour across the LoC: in the past, I was clearly and explicitly speaking only about reprisals for terrorist attacks and not about previous wars."

The MP added that his remarks were preceded by a reference "to the several attacks that have taken place in recent years alone, during which previous Indian responses were both restrained and constrained by our responsible respect for the LoC and the IB [International Border]".

In a repartee, Mr. Khera posted what Mr. Tharoor had written in *The Paradoxical Prime Minister.* The portion highlighted read, "The shameless exploitation of the 2016 'surgical strikes' along the Line of Control with Pakistan, and of a military raid in hot pursuit of rebels in Myanmar, as a party election tool – something the Congress had never done despite having authorised several such strikes earlier – marked a particularly disgraceful dilution of the principle that national security issues require both discretion and non-partisanship."

"I agree with that Dr @ShashiTharoor who wrote about surgical strikes in his book in 2018," Mr. Khera wrote on X. "Indeed," Mr. Ramesh added to Mr. Khera's post.

However, senior Congress leader Randeep Surjewala tried calming frayed nerves.

"Mr. Tharoor is a seasoned and experienced leader and is very much a part of the Congress family but his claim on surgical strikes was factually incorrect. Surgical strikes on Pakistan and dens of terrorists was a regular feature. Mr. Ramesh and Mr. Khera have only set the record straight and it shouldn't be a matter of acrimony," Mr. Surjewala told pressperson.

Centre planning a special session to mark anniversary of Emergency, says Congress

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

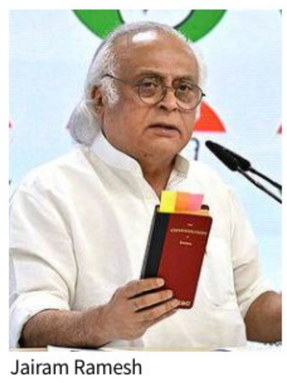
The Congress on Thursday said the Union government was considering a plan to call a special session of Parliament on June 25 and 26 to mark the 50th anniversary of the Emergency.

This will be yet another exercise in "diversion and distraction" from real and urgent issues, Congress communications chief Jairam Ramesh said in a post on X.

So far, there has been no formal announcement from the government on any such session.

Mr. Ramesh accused the BJP of seeking to attack the Congress at a time when it should be targeting Pakistan and terrorists.

He noted that from the night of April 22, when the Pahalgam terror attack took place, the Congress has been calling for an all-party meeting on the attack and its fallout, to be chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi. That has yet to take place, he said.



Jairam Ramesh

So far, there has been no formal announcement from the government on any such session

Several other Opposition parties have also made this demand, including the Trinamool Congress and the Left parties.

"On May 10, both the LoP [Leader of the Opposition] in the Lok Sabha and the LoP in the Rajya Sabha wrote to the Prime Minister requesting a special session of Parliament to be convened and to demonstrate the nation's collective resolve through a resolution. The Prime Minister has NOT accepted that suggestion as well," Mr. Ramesh said in his post.

"Now it appears that a special session of Parliament is being considered for June 25-26 to mark the 50th anniversary of the Emergency," Mr. Ramesh claimed.

'A classic exercise'

The Congress leader said, "This will be yet another classic exercise in diversion and distraction from real and more urgent issues by the Prime Minister – the man who has placed the nation under an undeclared Emergency for 11 years and the man who refuses to answer why the Pahalgam terrorists are still absconding, why he allowed President Donald Trump to broker a ceasefire, and why he gave a clean chit to China publicly on June 19th, 2020?"

Centre appoints three judges to Supreme Court, fills all 34 posts

Ishita Mishra
NEW DELHI

The Centre on Thursday cleared the appointment of three judges to the Supreme Court. With this, the top court has reached its full sanctioned strength of 34 judges.

Union Law and Justice Minister Arjun Ram Meghwal confirmed the appointments through a post on X.

"The President, after consultation with the Chief Justice of India (CJI), was pleased to appoint Justice N.V. Anjaria, the incumbent Chief Justice of Karnataka High Court; Justice Vijay Bishnoi, presently functioning as Chief Justice of the Gauhati High Court; and Justice Atul S. Chandurkar of the Bombay High Court as SC judges," the Minister wrote.

The newly appointed judges are expected to be sworn in by Chief Justice B.R. Gavai on Friday.

The appointment came three days after the Supreme Court Collegium forwarded its recommendations to the Centre.

Justice Anjaria's career began in 1988. He took oath as Chief Justice of the Karnataka High Court on February 25 last year. Justice Bishnoi began his career in 1989. He took oath as a permanent judge of the Rajasthan High Court in January 2015. Justice Atul S. Chandurkar, who started his career in 1988, was appointed an additional judge in the Bombay High Court in June 2013.

Green shoots

Kashmir's granary: Farmers plant paddy saplings in fields at Boniyar Uri in north Kashmir on Thursday. The Uri region is located on the banks of the Jhelum river, which flows just by the fields. IMRAN NISSAR

Modi, Mamata spar over riots, school recruitment scam

Shiv Sahay Singh
KOLKATA

Prime Minister Narendra Modi and West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee on Thursday were engaged in a bitter war of words over a host of issues including the riots in the State's Murshidabad district and school recruitment scam.

Addressing a public meeting at Alipurduar district after Operation Sindoor, the Prime Minister accused Mamata Banerjee government of "*nirmamata*" (being heartless), and added, "People of the State do not want a heartless government any more."

Within hours of Mr. Modi's speech, Ms. Banerjee held a press conference at the State Secretariat and questioned the timing of his political remarks. She said such remarks did not befit the Prime Minister when all-party delegations, including Trinamool Congress representatives, are going around the world speaking against terrorism.

The Prime Minister said, "What happened in Murshidabad and Malda is an example of the heartlessness of the State government... in the name of appeasement, lawlessness was allowed to have a free run. Just imagine the horror, when members of the ruling party, an MLA and a corporator, mark out homes and set them on fire, while the police stand by and do nothing."

Mamata Banerjee

Communal violence

Three persons were killed and hundreds were turned homeless after communal violence erupted in the Domkal and Shamsherganj areas of Murshidabad district in April 2025 during protests against the Waqf (Amendment) Act.

Speaking about the recruitment scams in State-run schools, Mr. Modi said, "This is not just playing with the future of a few thousand teachers. The entire education sector of West Bengal is being destroyed. Lakhs of students are suffering because of the absence of teachers. Even after indulging in such a crime, Trinamool leaders refuse to admit their mistakes. Instead, they are blaming the courts and judicial system."

The Supreme Court on April 3 upheld an order of the Calcutta High Court cancelling the appointment of nearly 25,000 teachers and non-teaching staff on the ground that the appointment process was "tainted".

Operation Sindoor

While speaking about Operation Sindoor at the Alipurduar rally, the Prime Minister invoked the symbolism of *Sindoor Khela*, a cultural practice of applying vermilion during Durga Pujas in West Bengal. adding that he was speaking from the "sacred land of *Sindoor Khela*". Referring to the Pahalgam attack on April 22, he said, "Terrorists dared to wipe off the *sindoor* from the foreheads of our sisters. But our brave soldiers made them realise the power of that *sindoor*."

The Trinamool Congress chairperson gave a point-by-point rebuttal of the remarks by the Prime Minister, and said the Prime Minister was indulging in politics over Operation Sindoor.

"Remember that every woman has respect. They take *sindoor* from their husbands. But why is PM Modi talking like this? You are not the husband of every woman...," Ms. Banerjee said. The Chief Minister said that she believed that the Prime Minister had come to salute the armed forces but instead he was busy promoting himself.

"Bengal will never go into the hands of the BJP," Ms. Banerjee said, challenging the BJP to hold elections anytime in the State.

Give generous relief package to residents of Poonch: Rahul

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha, Rahul Gandhi, on Thursday wrote to Prime Minister Narendra Modi, urging the Union government to offer a generous relief and rehabilitation package to the residents of Poonch in Jammu and Kashmir and other areas affected by Pakistani shelling.

In his letter, Mr. Gandhi mentioned that he recently visited Poonch, where 14 people, including four children, tragically lost their lives, and dozens were injured in Pakistani shelling.

"Many victims said years of hard work has been destroyed in one stroke," he wrote.

"Today when they are going through this deep crisis, it is our duty to understand their pain and provide all possible assistance to rebuild their lives. I urge the Government of India to come up with a solid and generous relief and rehabilitation package for Poonch and all other areas affected by Pakistani shelling," Mr. Gandhi added.

PM holds roadshow in Patna, meets BJP leaders ahead of Assembly polls

Amarnath Tewary
PATNA

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Thursday held a roadshow in Patna in his third visit to Bihar in the five months since January in view of the Assembly election due in October-November. He later met BJP leaders and workers at the party's State headquarters here.

Mr. Modi is likely to visit the State again on June 20, though State BJP leaders said the venue had not been decided yet.

Earlier, before setting off on the roadshow, Mr. Modi inaugurated the new integrated terminal at the Patna airport and laid the foundation for a new civil enclave at the Bihta airport, about 30 km from Patna. Chief Minister Nitish Kumar, Governor Arif Mohammad Khan, and all top Bihar BJP leaders were present at the Patna airport to welcome the Prime Minister.

During the 6-km roadshow, Mr. Modi's convoy was showered with flower petals amid chants of "*Bharat Mata ki Jai*" by the gathering along the road.

Warm welcome: The Prime Minister being welcomed by Governor Arif Mohammed Khan and Nitish Kumar in Patna on Thursday. PTI

However, unlike his last roadshow in Patna in May 2024, when Mr. Modi was standing in the vehicle as he waved at people, this time he remained seated while waving from inside at the crowds flanking the road.

Women and youth

The gathering consisted of women and youth in large numbers holding the tricolour and posters of Mr. Modi, who had come to see the Prime Minister and waited for his arrival for hours in the sweltering summer heat.

It took about two hours for the PM's slow-moving convoy to reach the State BJP headquarters. Posters depicting 'Operation Sindoor' and the Prime Minister had been prominently displayed on the roadshow route.

After reaching the State BJP headquarters on Beerchand Patel Road, Mr. Modi held a meeting with party leaders and workers in view of the upcoming Assembly election.

He will address a public meeting at Bikramganj in Rohtas district on Friday, where he is expected to announce ₹50,000 crore projects for the development of Bihar. The Prime Minister is scheduled to make a night stay at the Raj Bhavan in Patna.

'Historic moment'

"PM Modi's roadshow was a historic moment for all of us and it was huge success with over a lakh people gathering on both sides of the road to welcome their leader," said State Urban Development and Housing Minister Nitin Nabin, a young leader who was in charge of the roadshow.

Previously, Mr. Modi had visited the State in February and April, and on May 4, he inaugurated *Khelo India Youth Games 2025* at the Patliputra Sports Complex in Patna through video conferencing.

"He (PM Modi) will address a huge public rally on May 30 at Bikramganj in Rohtas district, where over five lakh people are expected to come," said former State BJP president and party MP Sanjay Jaiswal, who monitors the arrangements for the PM's rally there.

People from neighbouring Bhojpur and Buxar districts, too, are expected to visit.

Gogoi slams PM's remarks on 'Chinese' features

The Hindu Bureau
GUWAHATI

Congress MP Gaurav Gogoi has criticised Prime Minister Narendra Modi for remarks concerning the physical features of Chinese people, asserting that such comments are deeply traumatic for individuals from the northeastern States who face similar stereotyping across India.

Addressing pressperson in New Delhi on Wednesday, Mr. Gogoi said the Prime Minister should direct his attention to pressing issues such as bilateral trade and the border situation with China, instead of making observations on physical appearance.

"I must ask him to be also sensitive as these [certain physical features] have caused a lot of trauma for young people of the northeast," he said.

Mr. Gogoi also reiterated that national leaders have a responsibility to exercise restraint and empathy in their public discourse, particularly when referring to communities that have historically faced marginalisation.

INBRIEF

Sikkim can become a global tourism hub, says Modi

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Thursday said he envisions a "golden" Sikkim emerging as a global hub for tourism and a powerhouse in sports. The remarks were made as the State marked 50 years since its accession to the Indian Union in 1975. In a virtual address from Bagdogra in West Bengal, after inclement weather prevented his arrival at Paljor Stadium in Gangtok, the PM praised the people of Sikkim for their democratic decision to integrate with India, referring to the 1975 referendum in which 97% of voters supported the move.

Women's role crucial during Operation Sindoor: Rajnath

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh on Thursday said women pilots and soldiers played a crucial role in the effective action taken by India against terrorism in Pakistan and Pakistan-occupied Kashmir during Operation Sindoor. At the flag-in ceremony of *INSV Tarini* in Goa, on the return of Lieutenant Commanders Dilna K. and Roopa following a successful circumnavigation expedition 'Navika Sagar Parikrama II', Mr. Singh said ever since participation of women in the armed forces increased, they had performed exceptionally well in every role.

First batch of women cadets graduates from NDA in Pune

Convocation ceremony marks historic moment for women in the Indian armed forces; cadet Shriti Daksh secures first place in BA stream to win Silver Medal and Chief of Air Staff Trophy

Snehal Mutha
MUMBAI

Primed to serve: Cadets after the 148th convocation ceremony held at the National Defence Academy in Pune on Thursday. EMMANUAL YOGINI

The first batch of 17 women cadets graduated from the National Defence Academy in Pune on Thursday, marking a historic moment for women in the Indian armed forces.

At least 339 cadets were given degrees during the convocation ceremony of the 148th NDA course. The academy trains cadets for the Army, Navy, and Air Force.

Division cadet Shriti Daksh etched her name in the history books as she became the first woman cadet to receive the Silver Medal and Chief of Air Staff Trophy for securing first rank in the BA stream.

Lucky Kumar received the Chief of Army Staff Trophy for topping the B.Sc. stream, and battalion cadet Captain Prince Kumar Kushwaha lifted the Chief of Naval Staff Trophy for topping the computer science branch.

Academy cadet Captain Udayveer Singh Negi emerged topper in the B.Tech. stream.

The Vice-Chancellor of the Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Gorakhpur University, Poonam Tandon, who was the chief guest at the event, referred to the excellent performance of women cadets while addressing the graduands: "Service has no gender and your presence is historic."

NDA Commandant Vice-Admiral Gurcharan Singh hailed the historic event, calling the woman cadets "hope". He further said achieving name and fame in their service to the nation will be their "*gurudakshina*" to the NDA.

SC verdict

After a Supreme Court verdict in 2021, the Union Public Service Commission (UPSC) permitted women to apply for the NDA examination for the first time.

The cadets were given B.Sc., BA, and B.Tech. degrees from the Delhi-based Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU).

The passing out parade of the 148th course of the academy will be held on Friday.

CDS to engage with international military leaders in Singapore

Devesh K. Pandey
NEW DELHI

General Anil Chauhan

The Chief of Defence Staff will address the academia, think tanks and researchers

The Chief of Defence Staff (CDS), General Anil Chauhan, will visit Singapore from May 30 to June 1 to attend the 22nd edition of the Shangri-La Dialogue, hosted annually by the International Institute for Strategic Studies.

General Anil Chauhan will hold bilateral meetings with the Chiefs of Defence Forces and senior military leadership from several countries and regions, including Australia, the European Union, France, Germany, Indonesia, Japan, the Netherlands, New Zealand, the Philippines, Singapore, the U.K., and the U.S.

The Chief of Defence Staff will address the academia, think tanks and researchers and speak on the topic "Future wars and warfare". He will participate in simultaneous special sessions as part of the event and address them on the issue of "Defence innovation solutions for future challenges", the Defence Ministry said on Thursday.

"Shangri-La Dialogue is Asia's premier defence and security summit that brings together Defence Ministers, military chiefs, policy makers and strategic experts across the globe. The event will witness leaders from 40 nations addressing Indo-Pacific security challenges. The engagements will provide a platform to strengthen defence cooperation, discuss mutual security interests and enhance India's strategic partnerships in the Indo-Pacific region," the Ministry added.

Online camp for teenagers to inculcate positivity

The Hindu Bureau
CHENNAI

MiTran Global will conduct a two-day online interactive summer camp for students aged between 11 and 17, designed to impart positivity and equip young minds with mental clarity, emotional strength, and focused learning strategies. The event will be held on May 31 and June 1. *The Hindu In School* is the media partner for the camp.

This final summer edition prepares teenagers to return to their studies stronger, more confident, and self-driven.

This two-day live, online experience is not a generic motivational camp; it is a thoughtfully designed journey that nurtures both academic ability and emotional intelligence. To register, visit *hub.mitranglobal.com/services/ipc*. For more information, contact 74832 62507.

Former civil servants' group slams charges against academic

Bindu Shajan Perappadan
NEW DELHI

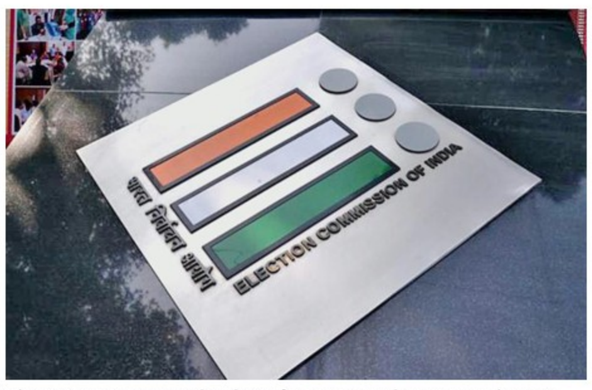
Ali Khan Mahmudabad

Terming the criminal charges against an associate professor of Political Science Ashoka University, Ali Khan Mahmudabad, "outrageous and absurd", the Constitutional Conduct Group, comprising 79 former civil servants, in a statement on Thursday, said that Mr. Mahmudabad's two social media posts related to Operation Sindoor, for which he has been charged, were in fact "thoughtful and measured".

"He [Professor Mahmudabad] praised the restraint of the Indian Army and noted the importance of the 'optics' of Colonel Sofiya Qureshi as a face of the Indian armed forces during the press briefings at the time that the hostilities were under way, but added that the symbolism of this would be hypocritical if lynching and bulldozing of homes continued," they said. The signatories include Anita Agnihotri, former Secretary, Department of Social Justice Empowerment; Chandrashekar Balakrishnan, former Secretary, Coal; and Sharad Behar, former Chief Secretary of Madhya Pradesh. Stating that the charges pertained to stringent Sections of BNS, including Section 152, which penalises acts "endangering sovereignty, unity and integrity of India", the group said the move echoes the language of the colonial-era sedition law.

EC's single-point dashboard likely to be operational before Bihar election

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI



The ECINET is among the slew of initiatives taken since February after Gyanesh Kumar assumed office as CEC. FILE PHOTO

The new integrated dashboard developed by the Election Commission is set to become operational during the current round of Assembly byelections and the upcoming Bihar Assembly election.

The dashboard, named ECINET, is aimed at providing all services for stakeholders at a single point, instead of the over 40 apps or websites that exist now.

EC sources said that some modules of ECINET will be made available during the current byelection process and by the time the Bihar Assembly election is held, the entire dashboard will be available for use.

Byelections to five Assembly seats in four States would be held on June 19.

The ECINET is among the slew of initiatives taken by the poll body since February to standardise poll management amid charges made by Opposition parties over myriad issues ranging from anomalies in electoral rolls to duplicate voter ID card numbers.

It was on February 19 that Chief Election Commissioner Gyanesh Kumar assumed office.

Some of the other initiatives taken by the EC since then include direct integration of death registration data from the Registrar General of India to enable timely and verified removal of deceased electors from the rolls and training of grassroots polling officers to streamline poll management.

The EC has also revised the maximum number of electors per polling station from 1,500 to 1,200. Additional polling booths will be established in densely populated areas such as gated communities and high-rise buildings.

The commission aims at ensuring that no voter is required to travel more than 2 km to vote. Voter information slips have been redesigned for clarity, with enhanced visibility of serial and part numbers. Mobile phone deposit facility will also be set up at the entrance of every polling station, a senior EC official said.

The EC has also facilitated 4,719 meetings across the country with participation from over 28,000 political party representatives.

The commission has also held consultations in New Delhi with leaders of recognised political parties, including the Aam Aadmi Party, Bharatiya Janata Party, Bahujan Samaj Party, Communist Party of India (Marxist), and National People's Party, with more meetings planned after the current byelections.

Training programmes have been conducted for Booth Level Officers (BLOs), BLO Supervisors, and Booth Level Agents (BLAs). Over 3,500 BLOs and BLO Supervisors have been trained and they will in turn train the larger BLO network of over 10.5 lakh functionaries.

Court orders takedown of parts of video targeting ANI

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Delhi High Court on Thursday directed YouTuber Mohak Mangal to remove specific portions of his video targeting news agency ANI, in which he used terms such as "*hafta wasooli*" (extortion), "*gunda raj*", and "kidnap".

The direction came during the hearing of a defamation suit filed by ANI over Mr. Mangal's video titled "Dear ANI", published on May 25 on his YouTube channel. In the video, Mr. Mangal criticised ANI's practice of issuing copyright strikes against content creators.

Justice Amit Bansal, presiding over the matter, observed, "These videos on the face of it are disparaging. You should have put it in a more civilised manner."

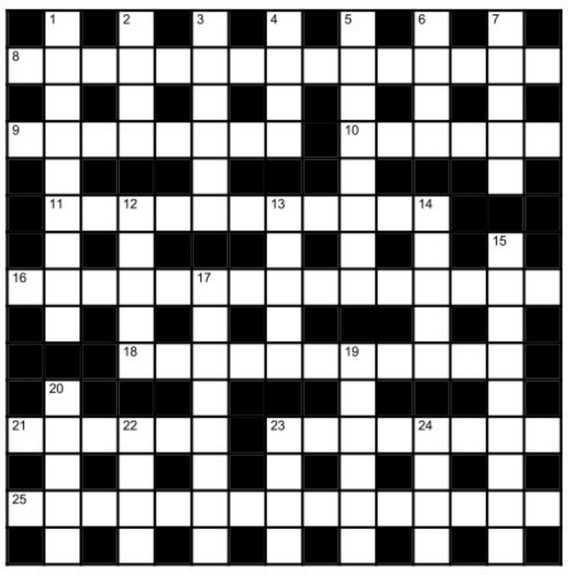
He questioned, "Let's say their [ANI's] demand is wrongful – how could you call it extortion?"

TH CROSSWORD + 14498

(set by Vidwan)

To solve this puzzle online, get across to our crossword site. @ *https://qrgo.page.link/jjpTn*

SCAN TO PLAY



Across

8 Man's style stays strangely close to inconspicuous IT guys in office (7,8)
9 Restrained by French queen's clamour (6,2)
10 Small hole, setter leased reportedly (6)
11 Time of payment and refusals by editor? Disdainful! (6-5)
16 Rare circular tux used for say drama in school (15)
18 Mostly avoid loaded unsheathed vial of gut bacteria! (11)
21 Man's title included 'pretentious one killed for his beliefs' (6)
23 Dashing date, returning Officer of British Empire with a common Malayali name! (8)
25 Bury nail after leaving one rupee at location as domestic tax (8,7)

Down

1 Overenthusiastic words in online language (9)
2 Overcome by crack from the south (4)
3 Small dirt for example, round blot (6)
4 Salt at north lake in mountains (4)
5 Fluid risk underpinning a wet kind of sport (5,3)
6 Impish character in Qwerty Keyboard (4)
7 Not about controlled ride (5)
12 Fashion for vacuous Genoese (5)
13 Never changing spirit (5)
14 Democrat should cut money (5)
15 Inconsistent Religious Instructions for a broad (9)
17 Enrico misguidedly welcomed by 101 guides (8)
19 Natural like popular black revolutionary (6)
20 Stalk hot relative (5)
22 Plant found in every street (4)
23 Food shop, hour away from capital city (4)
24 One's orchestrated live for Christmas (4)

SUDOKU

		5			9			
	6	3						
8		7	5	2				6
			1	7				8
	8	6				2	3	
5				3	2			
3				6	7	5		2
						6	8	
			2			9		

No.SS6535 Distribution: www.knightfeatures.com

DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★★★★

Solution to previous puzzle

C	O	P	P	E	R	M	O	R	T	G	A	G	E
	R		I		E		A		E		I		R
M	A	V	E	R	I	C	K		M	Y	R	I	A	D
	T		C		G		E		I		L		N
S	O	L	E	M	N		A	G	N	O	S	T	I	C
	R		M				C		I				T
L	Y	R	E		T	E	L	E	S	C	O	P	E	S
			A		A		E		C		P			
T	A	I	L	O	R	M	A	D	E		P	O	D	S
	S				A		N				O		U	
C	A	S	T	I	N	G	S		B	A	N	A	N	A
	R		R		T		W		I		E		G	
B	U	R	E	A	U		E	N	H	A	N	C	E	S
	L		N		L		E		A		T		O	
H	E	A	D	L	A	M	P		R	E	S	E	N	T

Solution to yesterday's Sudoku

1	6	5	7	8	3	2	4	9
7	2	3	4	6	9	8	5	1
8	4	9	5	2	1	7	3	6
3	8	1	2	4	5	6	9	7
5	9	2	6	3	7	1	8	4
4	7	6	1	9	8	3	2	5
9	1	7	3	5	2	4	6	8
6	3	8	9	1	4	5	7	2
2	5	4	8	7	6	9	1	3

FAITH

Mahalakshmi's qualities

When we look for precedents for any spiritual or religious observation, we look into the Itihasas and Puranas. But above all stand the Vedas. The Vedas are the ultimate authority when it comes to seeking validation for any philosophical statement.

Sri Guna Ratna Kosam of Parasara Bhattar gives us Goddess Mahalakshmi's qualities. The Vedas are the source of this work, because all Her auspicious qualities find a place in the Vedas, said T.A.K. Srinivasacharya in a discourse. So, Parasara Bhattar speaks with the authority of the Vedas when he elaborates on Her kalyana gunas. Parasara Bhattar is following the path shown by sages like Vyasa, when he praises Mahalakshmi's gem-like qualities.

Those who have earned the blessings of the Goddess are fortunate, and those who have not are fools who misinterpret the Vedas and do not grasp its import. To envision Her innumerable qualities, one needs the special collyrium of bhakti. Mahalakshmi is the Goddess of the universe.

It is not just the Upanishads that declare the greatness of Mahalakshmi. The Itihasas too extol Her. Even if everything that is good and auspicious in this world is put together, it will not equal even a small fraction of Mahalakshmi's wonderful qualities. You find a fortunate man seated on an elephant, beneath a pearl-studded umbrella. At the same time, you also see a poor man, dressed in worn-out and torn clothes. The reason for the difference in status of the two men is that while the former received the glances of the Goddess, the latter did not. Prosperity comes to a man only with Mahalakshmi's grace.

INBRIEF

SEBI releases new framework on F&O risk monitoring

The Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) has come up with a new framework for risk monitoring and increased the position limits for futures and options. In its latest circular, the markets watchdog said it had changed the method to calculate the value of open interest (OI) from notional value-based to delta-based. The new method will weigh open interest by price sensitivity, making it impossible to manipulate trades.

Wipro unveils global innovation network

Wipro Ltd. has announced the unveiling of its global Wipro Innovation Network designed to accelerate strategic partnership with global clients and academia. The network would leverage frontier technologies ranging from Artificial Intelligence (AI) to Quantum Computing to solve some of the most challenging problems for Wipro's clients across industries, the company said.

14,000 GPUs to be added to existing cluster: Vaishnaw

The IndiaAI Mission under the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology will acquire 14,000 graphics processing units in addition to the 18,000 already procured, IT Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw said at a CII event on Thursday. GPUs are in high demand for training and deploying AI models, and have been used extensively for training generative large language models like ChatGPT and DeepSeek.

Interim stay granted on NCLT order on Vedanta demerger

The National Company Law Appellate Tribunal (NCLAT) on Thursday granted an interim stay on the National Company Law Tribunal's (NCLT) order rejecting a part of Vedanta Ltd.'s proposed demerger of its various businesses. In March, NCLT Mumbai rejected the demerger of Vedanta's power business and its merger with the resulting company TSPL, citing insufficient debt disclosure. TSPL had then moved the NCLAT.

SEBI to collaborate with probe agencies to safeguard investors

Regulator working on a specific UPI system in which investors' money will go only to registered bank accounts to prevent fraud: Chairperson

Lalatendu Mishra
Ashokamithran T.
MUMBAI

Reality check: SEBI is also working out a system to verify the claims of a listed company through the exchanges. FILE PHOTO

To protect investors from increasing numbers of cyber frauds and market manipulators, the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) is planning to put in place robust system in coordination with investigative agencies.

The markets regulator is also working to put in place a specific system wherein when investors are putting money through UPI, it will only go to the registered bank accounts thereby preventing fraud, SEBI Chairperson Tuhin Kanta Pandey told *The Hindu* in an interview.

"We are also trying to squeeze business plan of 'finfluencers' out. We have taken down 70,000 'finfluencers' and we are taking down an average of 5,000 of them every month. We are also squeezing their business model as no regulated entity of SEBI can give advertisement to someone who is not registered in our database," Mr. Pandey said.

"We will do much more, much wider thinking of awareness building through everyone coming together and also bringing other agencies, the state police, the cybercrime police, the ED and CBI. We are trying to build much more for the investment and stock side of these crimes," he emphasised.

"We really want to have a massive kind of a plan which will actually penetrate to everyone like some simple messages where it can reach down and we are able to advise investors to come to the market safely," he said. Stating that it was tougher to bring awareness on allocation of portfolio, he said people were just losing money in F&O.

"They can save and invest. That's how people used to do earlier. It's not a grow rich kind of a thing overnight. It never works. It's a gambling behaviour. In a gambling den [the] house always wins," the chairman pointed out.

Urging investors to understand the cyber risks, he said this was one of SEBI's big focus areas.

'Only whitelisted apps'

"We are working with platforms to see that only whitelisted apps will be there, others will be pulled down from the Play Store."

"We are working to see that there is a system whereby when you are putting money through UPI, we will have a specific UPI system in built which will only go to the registered bank accounts. We will just try and create all those things to ensure people do not lose the money," he said.

"If we are able to make people adapt to that, then there will be little chance of putting money in the wrong account," he said.

SEBI is also working out a system to verify the claims of a listed company through the exchanges. "People should be able to disclose; good or bad. False disclosures give a false sense of information to people, which actually distorts the reality. So, we are also working out a system to verify the claims of a listed company through the exchanges," he said.

"In that case, that information can very quickly come in loud and we can catch them at that place. So, this is the system which we are bringing. We have already told the exchanges and they are working how to make it happen," Mr. Pandey stated.

He said SEBI was planning to roll out a cohesive strategy in close coordination with various outfits to enhance investor awareness. "We have actually done an investor survey which will be out by July and this will help assess the deficiencies and help us formulate the campaign," Mr. Pandey said.

To a query on Lokpal giving a clean chit to former SEBI chairperson Madhabi Puri Buch and if it was a relief for the institution, Mr. Pandey said at least from a compliance point of view there was a closure for his predecessor, "because these were personal allegations".

'Govt. gauging impact of U.S. court verdict on Trump tariffs'

T.C.A. Sharad Raghavan
NEW DELHI

'India must use court's pause to reassess FTA strategy'.

The Centre is assessing the potential impact of a U.S. court's ruling that said President Donald Trump's retaliatory tariffs were "unconstitutional," according to government sources.

These sources also confirmed the U.U.S. team of negotiators for the ongoing India-U.S. Free Trade Agreement discussions would be in India on June 5-6 and added the talks were "progressing well".

Indian delegation, under Commerce and Industry Ministry Piyush Goyal, returned from week-long trip to U.S. last week.

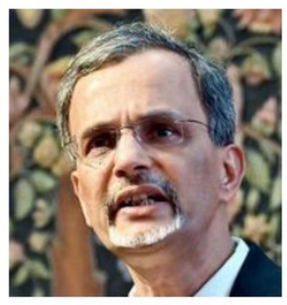
'The Court of International Trade in the U.S. on May 28 ruled the International Emergency Economic Powers Act of 1977 – the legislation under which Mr. Trump ordered 'Liberation Day' retaliatory tariffs – did not confer on the U.S. President "unbounded authority" to impose unlimited tariffs on almost all countries in the world.

As such, the court set aside the tariffs, which were, in any case, paused by Mr. Trump until July 8.

Trade experts said India must use the opportunity provided by the U.S. court decision to pause and reassess strategy in FTA talks.

'Private sector must strike a balance between labour, AI'

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI



V. Anantha Nageswaran

Chief Economic Advisor V. Anantha Nageswaran on Thursday cautioned private sector against possible over-deployment of artificial intelligence (AI) tools to the detriment of labour, saying India was a country that needed eight million additional jobs every year.

Speaking to a gathering of industry leaders at the Confederation of Indian Industry's Annual Business Summit 2025, Mr. Nageswaran said the deployment of end-to-end AI systems was a business policy choice and not inevitable, and companies could decide for themselves where to stop AI deployment and instead use labour.

Mr. Nageswaran's statements comes a day after TCS chairman N. Chandrasekaran spoke about how "the rise of autonomous robots and AI agents promises a future of 'dark factories' and AI-assisted enterprise functions".

MARKETS

MARKET WATCH

	THURSDAY	% CHANGE
Sensex	81,633	0.39
US Dollar	85.48	-0.11
Gold	98,500	-0.50
Brent oil	64.25	-1.56

NIFTY 50

	PRICE	CHANGE
Adani Enter	2540.80	25.80
Adani Ports	1438.60	27.60
Apollo Hosp	6923.00	-33.50
Asian Paints	2294.30	-8.90
Axis Bank	1201.70	7.00
Bajaj Auto	8874.50	25.50
Bajaj Finserv	2010.90	-11.50
Bajaj Finance	9204.00	-63.50
Bharat Elec	386.80	-3.65
Bharti Airtel	1863.60	7.50
Cipla	1476.90	8.40
Coal India	398.20	0.00
Dr Reddys Lab	1248.20	5.60
Eicher Motors	5379.00	52.50
Eternal Ltd.	228.37	4.19
Grasim Ind	2573.60	-4.00
HCL Tech	1664.70	7.40
HDFC Bank	1927.50	4.00
HDFC Life	780.90	-8.55
Hero MotoCorp	4356.60	-5.60
Hindalco	650.00	0.05
Hind Unilever	2366.70	4.70
ICICI Bank	1456.50	2.70
IndusInd Bank	824.15	19.00
Infosys	1585.60	13.80
ITC	418.75	-1.45
Jio Financial Services Ltd.	287.85	-2.50
JSW Steel	1006.20	5.20
Kotak Bank	2081.60	7.30
L&T	3655.30	9.00
M&M	3009.00	11.20
Maruti Suzuki	12392.00	61.00
NestleIndia	2435.00	16.00
NTPC	339.35	-0.70
ONGC	243.04	0.37
PowerGrid Corp	293.10	1.95
Reliance Ind	1417.80	4.90
SBI Life	1825.00	17.60
State Bank	797.35	0.80
Shriram Finance Ltd.	652.25	-3.45
Sun Pharma	1699.80	33.40
TataConsumerProduct	1109.80	-11.60
Tata Motors	724.45	6.50
Tata Steel	163.12	1.88
TCS	3498.10	0.40
Tech Mahindra	1600.00	19.70
Titan	3588.30	13.60
Trent Ltd.	5657.00	98.00
UltraTech Cement	11269.00	31.00
Wipro	250.14	2.71

EXCHANGE RATES

Indicative direct rates in rupees a unit except yen at 4 p.m. on May 29

CURRENCY	TT BUY	TT SELL
US Dollar	85.31	85.63
Euro	96.23	96.59
British Pound	114.88	115.31
Japanese Yen (100)	58.86	59.08
Chinese Yuan	11.87	11.91
Swiss Franc	103.00	103.40
Singapore Dollar	66.13	66.39
Canadian Dollar	61.69	61.92
Malaysian Ringitt	20.08	20.20
Australian Dollar	54.93	55.14

Source:Indian Bank

E-rupee in circulation grows to ₹1,016 cr.

The value of central bank digital currency (CBDC) or e-rupee in circulation jumped to ₹1,016 crore at the end of March 2025 from ₹234 crore in the year-ago period, the Reserve Bank said on Thursday. PTI

Office of the Superintending Engineer
Water Resources Circle Nohar
Hanumangarh
Notice Inviting Bid
(NIB Code-WRN2526A0011)

Bids for 01 Nos of Work estimated cost from Rs 686.34 Lakh involving Rehabilitation of Ratanpura Disty km 0.000 to 9.150 of Sidhmukh Irrigation System, Bhadra District - Hanumangarh are invited from prospective bidders up to 05.06.2025 at 6.00 PM. Other particulars of the bids may be visited on the procurement portal http://www.eproc.rajasthan.gov.in, http://sppp.rajasthan.gov.in, of the state and www.water.rajasthan.gov.in departmental website.
UBN No.- WRN2526WLOB00055

(Sanjeev Verma)
Superintending Engineer
Water Resources Circle
Nohar
DIPR/C/6586/2025

OFFICE OF THE ADDL.CHIEF ENGINEER P.W.D. ZONE TONK
क्रमांक : 564–573 दिनांक : 14.05.2025

Notice Inviting Bid

06/2025-26

Bids for Nit No 06/2025-26, 01 Nos. Road/Bridge Work "Construction of Extra-dosed PSC Box Bridge across Banas River of road connecting Deoli to Jaipur via Bisalpur and Todaraising District Tonk in the state of Rajasthan **on EPC Basis are invited from interested bidders upto** Date 23.06.2025, 06.00 P.M. **Other particulars of the bid may be visited on the procurement portal (http://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in, http://sppp.raj.nic.in) of the state. and -departmental website. The approximate value of the procurement is** Rs. 111.63 Lacs

(Premraj Meena)
Addl. Chief Engineer
PWD, Zone Tonk
NIB code PWD2526A0607
UBN is: PWD2526WLOB01834
DIPR/C/6621/2025

TAMILNADU NEWSPRINT AND PAPERS LIMITED
Kagithapuram - 639 136. Karur Dist. Tamil Nadu.
Ph.: 04324-277001 (10 Lines).

NOTICE INVITING TENDERS

Tender No.	Material Description	Due date
252613 001435	A4 70 GSM & A4 80 GSM Copier Laminated Wrapper Reels (Base Paper 100 GSM with 15 Micron BOPP).	09.06.2025
252623 000704	Bleached Chemi Thermo Mechanical Pulp Soft Wood 70 (Double Washed) for Unit-II.	09.06.2025
252623 000710	Bleached Chemi Thermo Mechanical Pulp Soft Wood 70 High Yield Pulp (BCTMP SW 70) for Unit-II.	10.06.2025
252613 001464	Bleached Hardwood Kraft Pulp (BHKP) for Unit-I.	12.06.2025
Email	252613001435 - purchase.packing@tnpl.co.in 252623000704 ; 0710 ; 252613001464 - purchase.pulp@tnpl.co.in	

Corrigendum if any will be issued in TNPL Website and NIC Portal only. Detailed Terms & conditions, tender fee, EMD etc., are available in the tender document which can be downloaded from websites : **www.tnpl.com / https://tntenders.gov.in/nicgep/app**
DIPR/2654/Tender/2025 *TNPL - Maker of bagasse based eco-friendly Paper*

NMDC Ltd.
(A Govt. Of India Enterprise) (ISO 9001 Company)
Bailadila Iron Ore Mine, Bacheli Complex
Bacheli, Distt. - South Bastar (Dantewada), CG - 494553
Phone No.: 07857-230210, Mob.: 8085559082

// e-Tender Notice //

BIOM/BC/Contracts/Publication/2025-26/095/ **Date : 30/05/2025**

Bailadila Iron Ore Mines, Bacheli Complex, NMDC Ltd. invites e-bids for the following works. Intending tenderers may visit and download Tender Documents from CPP Portal or **www.nmdc.co.in** or **http://www.mstcecommerce.com/eprochome/nmdc/**. Any corrigendum/addendum to be issued, the bidder must visit the online portal from time to time to notice the same. Corrigendum/addendum will not be published in any newspaper. The offer has to be submitted online at the given MSTC portal only till 03:30 PM and will be opened on 04:00 PM on respective last dates.

MSTC Ref No. NMDC/ Bacheli / 25-26/ET/		NMDC Tender. No. BIOM/ BC/ CONTRACTS/ OTE(95)/ 25-26/	Short Description of Work	EMD (Rs.)	Last Date of Sub'n
1	20/143	C-299	CONSTRUCTION OF BUTTRESS WALL OF 200 METERS BELOW SG STOCKPILE AT DEP-5 MINE, BIOM BACHELI COMPLEX.	49,500/-	30/06/2025
2	21/144	C-320	REPLACEMENT OF DAMAGED SHEETS (FRP & CGS) AND MISC. CIVIL WORKS AT CWS, BIOM BACHELI COMPLEX.	44,200/-	30/06/2025
3	22/145	C-398	CONSTRUCTION OF HARD TOP CONCRETE ROAD AT PRIMARY LEVEL OF SP-5, BIOM BACHELI COMPLEX.	26,900/-	30/06/2025
4	23/146	C-399	CONSTRUCTION OF RCC RETAINING WALL AT SIDE OF CONVEYOR 81 AT SP-5, BIOM BACHELI COMPLEX.	71,300/-	30/06/2025
5	24/147	C-400	MODIFICATION OF INTERNAL AND EXISTING WATER SUPPLY LINE AT LP, SP-5, SP-10&11A, INCLUDING FILTER HOUSE, CP-10&11A, DEP-10&11A AT BACHELI COMPLEX.	44,600/-	30/06/2025
6	25/148	C-397	EXTENSION OF ANNEXE BUILDING ABOVE GROUND FLOOR AT BACHELI COMPLEX INCLUDING ELECTRIFICATION WORK.	73,400/-	30/06/2025

HOD (M&S and Contracts)
BIOM, Bacheli Complex

KERALA MEDICAL SERVICES CORPORATION LTD
(DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & FAMILY WELFARE, GOVT. OF KERALA)
Head Office : Thycaud, Thiruvananthapuram-14,
(Telephone No. 0471-2945600, 2945646)
E-mail : edrugs.kmscl@kerala.gov.in,
website : www.kmscl.kerala.gov.in, CIN No. U24233KL2007SGC021616

No.KMSCL/ED/6/2025 **Date : 28.05.2025**

E-TENDER NOTICE

Online bids are invited from manufacturers/loan licensees on behalf of Department of Health, Govt of Kerala for the procurement of Bleaching Powder for the year 2025-26.

Sl. No.	Tender No. and Date	Category	No. of Items
1.	KMSCL/ED/Bleaching Powder/RC/2025/009 dtd: 28.05.2025	Disinfectant and Chemicals	1

Schedule of dates

	Date	Time
Last date of online uploading of tenders	10.06.2025	05.00 pm. onwards
Date of technical bid opening	13.06.2025	11.00 am. onwards

Tenders shall be downloaded and submitted online through the e-tender portal **www.etenders.kerala.gov.in**.

(Sd/-) MANAGING DIRECTOR (Tender Inviting Authority)

NSE

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Samajh kar
Invest kar

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JERUSALEM

Israel announces creation of 22 settlements in occupied West Bank

AP

Israel announced on Thursday the creation of 22 new settlements in the occupied West Bank, including legalising outposts and resettling evacuated areas, aiming to strengthen control and prevent a Palestinian state. The move faces international condemnation as illegal and a major obstacle to peace. AFP

COLOMBO

Former Sri Lanka Ministers get up to 25 years in jail for corruption

AFP

A Sri Lankan court sentenced on Thursday two former Ministers — Mahindananda Aluthgamage and Anil Fernando — to 20 and 25 years in prison, respectively, for misappropriating 53 million rupees ($1,77,000) in state funds. The pair were also fined $2,000 for using government funds to donate board games during 2015 election. AFP

WASHINGTON

Two human traffickers sentenced over freezing deaths of Indians

AP

Two human traffickers — Harshkumar Ramanlal Patel and Steve Anthony Shand (in the photo) — were sentenced for their roles in a smuggling operation that resulted in the 2022 deaths of four Indian nationals, including a three-year-old and an 11-year-old. The four people froze to death while crossing the U.S.-Canada border. AFP

TAIPEI

China launches Tianwen-2 to collect asteroid samples by 2027

REUTERS

China launched early Thursday the Tianwen-2 spacecraft to collect samples from near-Earth asteroid 2016HO3 and explore main-belt comet 311P. The mission aims to return asteroid samples by 2027, offering insights into the solar system's formation and "expanding human knowledge of cosmos". AP

U.S. will begin revoking the visas of Chinese students, says Marco Rubio

In the 2023-24 school year, more than 2,70,000 international students were from China, making up roughly a quarter of all foreign students in the U.S.; earlier, House Republicans pressed Duke University to cut its ties with a Chinese university

Associated Press
WASHINGTON

Secretary of State Marco Rubio said on Wednesday the U.S. will begin revoking the visas of some Chinese students, including those studying in "critical fields".

China is the second-largest country of origin for international students in the U.S., behind only India. In the 2023-24 school year, more than 2,70,000 international students were from China, making up roughly a quarter of all foreign students in the U.S.

"Under President Trump's leadership, the U.S. State Department will work with the Department of Homeland Security to aggressively revoke visas for Chinese students, including those with connections to the Chinese Communist Party or studying in critical fields," Mr. Rubio wrote.

Cutting ties: The U.S. will target Chinese students with connections to the Chinese Communist Party, says Rubio. AFP

The action comes at a time of intensifying scrutiny of the ties between U.S. higher education and China. House Republicans this month pressed Duke University to cut its ties with a Chinese university, saying it allowed Chinese students to gain access to federally funded research at Duke.

Last year, House Republicans issued a report warning that hundreds of millions of dollars in defence funding was going to research partnerships linked to the Chinese government, providing "back-door access to the very foreign adversary nation whose aggression these capabilities are necessary to protect against".

Homeland Secretary Kristi Noem accused Harvard last week of "coordinating with the Chinese Communist Party", citing research collaborations with Chinese scholars.

The announcement came a day after Mr. Rubio halted the scheduling of new visa interviews for international students as the department prepares guidelines for increased vetting of their activity on social media. Together, the announcements from the State Department added to uncertainty for America's international students, who have faced intensifying scrutiny from President Donald Trump's administration.

U.S. judge keeps Harvard foreign student ban on hold

Associated Press
BOSTON

A federal judge on Thursday extended an order blocking the Trump administration's attempt to bar Harvard University from enrolling foreign students.

U.S. District Judge Allison Burroughs granted Harvard's request for a preliminary injunction, blocking the government's action until the case is decided. It had already been paused since last week, when Judge Burroughs issued a temporary restraining order.

Harvard sued the Department of Homeland Security on Friday after Secretary Kristi Noem revoked its ability to host foreign students at its campus in Cambridge, Massachusetts.

Harvard University in Cambridge, Massachusett.

On Thursday, the Trump administration announced a new effort to revoke Harvard's certification to enrol foreign students. In a letter sent by the acting Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) director, Todd Lyons, the government gave Harvard 30 days to respond to the alleged grounds for withdrawal, which include accusations that Harvard coordinated with foreign entities and failed to respond sufficiently to anti-Semitism on campus.

The dispute over international enrolment at Harvard is the latest escalation in a battle between the White House and the nation's oldest and wealthiest college. In April, Department of Homeland Security Secretary Kristi Noem sent a letter to the school, demanding a range of records related to foreign students, including discipline records and anything related to "dangerous or violent activity."

In its lawsuit, Harvard argued that the government failed to follow administrative procedures and regulations that dictate how schools may be removed from eligibility to host international students.

Ngũgĩ wa Thiong'o, famed Kenyan novelist and dissident, dies aged 87

Associated Press
NEW YORK

Ngũgĩ wa Thiong'o, the revered Kenyan man of letters and voice of dissent who in dozens of fiction and non-fiction books traced his country's history from British imperialism to home-ruled tyranny and challenged not only the stories told but the language used to tell them, died on Wednesday at 87.

Derek Warker, publicist for Ngũgĩ's U.S. publisher The New Press, confirmed the death. Ngũgĩ's son Nducu wa Ngugi said he died in Bedford, Georgia. Further details were not immediately available, though Ngũgĩ was receiving kidney dialysis treatments.

Ngũgĩ wa Thiong'o

Whether through novels such as *The Wizard of the Crow* and *Petals of Blood*, memoirs such as *Birth of a Dream Weaver* or the landmark critique *Decolonizing the Mind*, Ngũgĩ embodied the very heights of the artist's calling – as a truth teller and explorer of myth, as a breaker of rules and steward of culture. He was a perennial candidate for the Nobel literature prize and a long-term artist in exile, imprisoned for a year in the 1970s and harassed for decades after.

"Resistance is the best way of keeping alive," he told the *Guardian* in 2018. "It can take even the smallest form of saying no to injustice."

He was admired worldwide, by authors ranging from John Updike to Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie, and by former President Barack Obama, who once praised Ngũgĩ's ability to tell "a compelling story of how the transformative events of history weigh on individual lives and relationships." He had helped shatter the Western monopoly on African stories and reveal to the world how those on the continent saw themselves.

Ngũgĩ was shortlisted for the Man Booker Prize in 2009, was a finalist for a National Book Critics Circle prize in 2012 and, four years later, was the winner of the Pak Kyong-ni Literature Award.

Gaza's civil defence says Israeli attacks kill 44

Agence France-Presse
GAZA CITY

Gaza's civil defence agency said Israeli attacks killed 44 people on Thursday, including 23 in a strike on a home in the centre of the Palestinian territory.

"Forty-four people have been killed in Israeli raids on the Gaza Strip," civil defence official Mohammad al-Mughayyir said.

"Twenty-three people were killed, others injured and several (are) missing following an Israeli strike on the Qreinawi family's home east of Al-Bureij refugee camp in central Gaza."

Mr. Mughayyir also reported "two people killed and several injured by Israeli forces' gunfire this morning near the American aid centre in the Morag axis, southern Gaza Strip."

Musk to exit U.S. govt. role after rare break with President Trump

Agence France-Presse
WASHINGTON

Billionaire Elon Musk on Wednesday announced he was leaving his role in U.S. government, intended to reduce federal spending, shortly after his first major break with President Donald Trump over his signature spending Bill.

"As my scheduled time as a Special Government Employee comes to an end, I would like to thank President Donald Trump for the opportunity to reduce wasteful spending," he wrote on X. "The DOGE mission will only strengthen over time as it becomes a way of life throughout the government," he added.

The tech tycoon had said Mr. Trump's Bill would increase the deficit and undermine the work of Department of Government Efficiency (DOGE), which has fired tens of thousands of people.

Mr. Musk – who was a constant presence at Mr. Trump's side before pulling back to focus on his Space X and Tesla businesses – also complained that DOGE had become a "whipping boy" for dissatisfaction with the administration.

TELANGANA STATE INDUSTRIAL INFRASTRUCTURE CORPORATION LIMITED
CIN: U99000TG2014SGC095514
REGISTERED OFFICE: 6TH FLOOR, PARISHRAMA BHAVAN, BASHEERBAGH, HYDERABAD - 500004
Email: co-secretary-iic@telangana.gov.in, Website: www.tgiic.telangana.gov.in

UNAUDITED STANDALONE FINANCIAL RESULTS FOR THE QUARTER AND YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH, 2025

Sl No.	Particulars	3 Months ended 31.03.2025 (Unaudited)	3 Months ended 31.12.2024 (Unaudited)	3 Months ended 31.03.2024 (Unaudited)	For the year ended 31.03.2025 (Unaudited)	For the year ended 31.03.2024 (Audited)
1.	Total Income from Operations	20,543.92	8,466.09	NA	55,190.04	39,493.48
2.	Net Profit (Loss) for the period (before Tax, Exceptional and/ or Extraordinary items)	-9,934.72	-2,276.79	NA	-5,710.00	10,776.54
3.	Net Profit/ (Loss) for the period before tax (after Exceptional and/ or Extraordinary items)	-9,934.72	-2,276.79	NA	-5,710.00	10,776.54
4.	Net Profit/ (Loss) for the period after tax (after Exceptional and/ or Extraordinary items)	-9,040.19	-1,644.63	NA	-5,710.00	7,962.09
5.	Total Comprehensive Income for the period [Comprising Profit/ (Loss) for the period (after tax) and Other Comprehensive Income (after tax)]	-9,029.08	-1,644.63	NA	-5,698.89	10,288.47
6.	Paid up Equity Share Capital (Face value of (₹) 1000 Each)	1.00	1.00	NA	1.00	1.00
7.	Reserves (excluding Revaluation Reserve)	-	-	-	-	-
8.	Net worth					
9.	Debt Equity Ratio (times)	14.35	12.45	NA	14.35	0.36
10.	**Earnings Per Share (EPS) (₹) (Not Annualised) (Face Value ₹ 1000 per share)**					
	Basic EPS	-90,40,190.00	-16,44,630.00	NA	-57,10,000.00	79,62,090.00
	Diluted EPS	-13,264.55	-2,413.14	NA	-8,378.21	11,682.67
11.	Capital Redemption Reserve	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
12.	Debenture Redemption Reserve	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
13.	Debt Service Coverage Ratio (No.of Times)	0.58	0.61	NA	0.76	3.05
14.	Interest Service Coverage Ratio (No.of Times)	0.61	0.70	NA	0.76	3.05

Notes
1) The above is an extract of the detailed format of Quarterly financial results filed with the Stock Exchange(s) under regulation 52 of the Listing Regulations. The full format of the quarterly financial results is available on the websites of the Stock Exchange-National Stock Exchange (NSE) website www.nseindia.com and on the company website www.tgiic.telangana.gov.in

Date: May 29,2025
Place: Hyderabad
R.O. No. : 187-PP/CL-AGENCY/ADVT/1/2025-26

For and on behalf of the Board
Dr. E. Vishnu Vardhan Reddy
Vice Chairman & Managing Director
DIN: 09802197

SOUTHERN RAILWAY
Materials Management Department
Corrigendum to Auction Programme June 2025
NOTICE NO: 06/2025
E-Auction will be conducted for disposal of Ferrous scrap, Non-Ferrous scrap, other Misc scrap, condemned Wagon, Coaches& Locos, Scrap Rails and other Permanent Way scrap material.
e-auction conducted by : CSSD/GOC
Auction date: 10/06/2025 is preponed to 05/06/2025
Material for auction : The details of items to be sold in e-auction will be available in catalogue **www.ireps.gov.in** website
Note: All other auctions scheduled for **JUNE 25 remains unaltered.**
For detailed terms and conditions and downloading of catalogue please visit our web-site **http://www.ireps.gov.in ->E-Auction->Sale->Live Auctions.**
Principal Chief Materials Manager

SOUTHERN RAILWAY
(Construction Organisation)
Ernakulam Junction
Tender Notice No.DCE-II-CN-ERS-OT-02-2025 Dated: 23.05.2025
Name of the work: Proposed Re-development of Thrissur Railway station-Proposed housekeeping for the Officers Rest House at Thrissur for one year.
Tender Value: Rs. 5.9937 lakhs.
Completion Period: 12 months.
Date of Opening: 16.06.2025 @ 15.00 hrs.
Complete details & tender document will be available at https://www.ireps.gov.in
Dy. Chief Engineer/II (Construction) Ernakulam Jn.

UT OF LAKSHADWEEP
LAKSHADWEEP DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION LIMITED
(A GOVT. OF INDIA UNDERTAKING)
Ph: 04842323448/458 E-mail: amindivi@asianetindia.com
F.No: LDCL/Stevedoring-4 Dt : 22.05.2025
RE-TENDER
E-tender is invited for engagement of Stevedoring agency for Stevedoring Agency Service for UTLA owned Cargo Barges for Kochi and Mangalore Ports (New and Old Ports) through tenders, LDCL/Stevedoring/Kochi-4 and LDCL/Stevedoring/Mangalore-4. For details and E-tendering please visit website **https://www.tenderwizard.com/UTL** and **https://tendersutl.gov.in** Tender due on 13.06.2025 at 11.00 AM. For any help in e-tendering, please contact Help Desk No. 080-40482000 / 9605557738/9686115318 **(https://tenderwizard.com/UTL)** and 0120-4001002, 4001005, 6277787 **(https://tendersutl.gov.in).**
Sd/- MD (LDCL)

TIRUMALA TIRUPATI DEVASTHANAMS-TIRUPATI
Office of the Chief Engineer **TENDER NOTICE**
ADV No.14/D3/CE/TTD/2025-26 & NIT No.131 /SE-II /TTD/ 2025 -26 dt:29-05- 2025
Name of work: 1) Operation and maintenance of Filter plants, Fountains, Pumps, Pump stations, pumping lines from Dams at Tirumala, Garden pumping lines, Theerthams water supply lines and Sewage treatment plants at Tirumala, pipe lines in both Foot paths & Ghat roads, Kalyani pumping scheme and S.V. Poor home at Tirupati (Both Civil & Elec) for a period of 2025-2027 Open Tender Type, Time for Completion: 24 months.
NOTE: For full details log on to the **Website https: //www.tirumala.org.**
TTD-40021/10/2025-PRO SEC (Adv.No.77) Date:29-05-2025 **EXECUTIVE OFFICER**

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
DEPARTMENT OF SPACE
CMG, SDSC - SHAR SRIHARIKOTA - 524124
Brief E-TENDER NOTICE : CORRIGENDUM-A (SALE EXTENSION)
No: SHAR:CMG:CIVIL:MAINT:E-PT-01(A)/25-26 Dt: 28.05.2025
Kindly refer to E-Public Tender-01/25-26 dated: 08.05.2025 **"Non–Destructive Testing [NDT] for assessment of structural adequacy of quarters and amenity buildings in PCN,PNN & SMN colonies, Sullurpeta, SDSC SHAR"** (T/C-25-006, Est. cost ₹ 12.70 Lakhs); **"Structural Audit for VAB, SSAB Facilities, SLP,SDSC SHAR"** (T/C-25-007, Est. cost ₹ 24.00 Lakhs).
Sale period extended up to 06.06.2025
Interested tenderers may visit www.isro.gov.in or www.tenderwizard.com/ISRO for details.
Sd/- GROUP HEAD, CMG/SDSC SHAR

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कार्यालय निदेशक, पुरातत्त्व एवं संग्रहालय विभाग, राजस्थान, जयपुर
(दूरभाष नं.: 0141-2820360, email-dirarch@rajasthan.gov.in)
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NOTICE INVITING TENDER

Tender No.	Material Description	Due date
252613 001452	Procurement of Debarked Acacia pulpwood from open market sources of Karnataka to TNPL Unit - I at Kagithapuram.	13.06.2025

Corrigendum if any will be issued in TNPL Website only. Detailed Terms & conditions, tender fee, EMD etc., are available in the tender document which can be downloaded from website : **www.tnpl.com**
DIPR/2655/Tender/2025 *TNPL - Maker of bagasse based eco-friendly Paper*

Bharat Electronics Limited, Bengaluru Complex, Jalahalli Post, Bengaluru - 560 013, invites applications from reputed and experienced agencies for carrying out the work of **"Engagement of Contract Workmen for carrying out miscellaneous works in BE-BG". The approximate cost of the work is Rs.1771 Lakhs.**
For prequalification criteria and other details, visit website https://eprocurebel.co.in. All Corrigendum / Amendments / Changes, if any will be issued and made available on Website https://eprocurebel.co.in. No Corrigendum / Amendments / Changes will be issued in Newspapers. Hence, prospective agencies are advised to keep visiting the Website https://eprocurebel.co.in on regular basis.
Sd/-
DATE: 30.05.2025 **DY. GEN. MANAGER (CONTRACTS) ENGINEERING SERVICES**
'Har Ek Kaam Desh Ke Naam'

HOODWINKED

I felt like no one was able to read my googlies, says Suyash

R.V. MOORTHY

I just tried to execute the plan given by our coach and was feeling really good while bowling. I felt like no one was able to read my googlies, which gave me a lot of confidence. We treated it like any other match and didn't put pressure on ourselves by thinking of it as a semifinal — RCB's Suyash Sharma who won the PoM award.

KEEPING IT SIMPLE

Sometimes one can think too much and overplay it: Salt

R.V. MOORTHY

We had a second bite at the cherry tonight. It did move a bit but don't know how much that was because of the wicket. Not the worst wicket we have played on... let's put it that way. What was in my head was 'don't get out to Arshdeep'! Sometimes you can think too much and overplay it — RCB opener Phil Salt.

NOT YET OVER

We have lost the battle but not the war, says Shreyas

R.V. MOORTHY

Not a day to forget, but we have to go to the drawing board. We were befuddled and lost a lot of wickets... that's something to go back and study. We couldn't execute and the bowlers can't be blamed as it was such a low total. We have lost the battle but not the war — PBKS captain Shreyas Iyer.

DRAWING FIRST BLOOD

England ends seven-match losing streak with a massive win

AFP

England ended a seven-match ODI losing streak with a thumping 238-run win over West Indies in the series opener at Edgbaston on Thursday. Jacob Bethell, *in pic*, struck a blistering 82 to set it up for the host. **The scores:** England 400/8 in 50 overs (Duckett 60, Root 57, Brook 58, Bethell 82, Seales 4/84) bt WI 162 in 26.2 overs.

Hazlewood, Suyash, Salt lead RCB's march into final

The Bengaluru outfit overhauls the modest target of 102 in 10 overs to make it to the title clash for the fourth time; Punjab batters pay the price for their reckless approach after being put in

IPL-18

Vivek Krishnan
NEW CHANDIGARH

If there was a blueprint for Royal Challengers Bengaluru after opting to bowl in IPL's Qualifier 1, it would have been pretty similar to how things transpired at the Maharaja Yadavindra Singh Stadium on Thursday. Almost everything that the RCB bowlers did fell into place as Punjab Kings' catastrophic implosion with the bat saw it folding up for 101 in 14.1 overs. Josh Hazlewood and Suyash Sharma starred with three scalps each.

With Phil Salt spearheading the chase, the target was knocked off in 10 overs with eight wickets in hand. It took RCB to a fourth IPL final, in Ahmedabad on June 3 (Tuesday), and ignited hope among its fervent fanbase of a long-awaited maiden title. For PBKS, it was not the end of the road. It will play Qualifier 2 against the winner of Friday's Eliminator on Sunday.

A key factor in Punjab's run this season has been the spunk shown by openers Priyansh Arya and Prabhsimran Singh. But on the big day, neither lasted long enough. After punching Bhuvneshwar Kumar through backward point for four, Priyansh succumbed to an uppish drive off Yash Dayal.

Tightening the screws: Suyash's triple strikes ensured there was no way back for PBKS. R.V. MOORTHY

Prabhsimran, who was looking to assert himself by running down the track, hit Bhuvneshwar for back-to-back fours. But there's a fine line between aggression and recklessness. He chanced his luck when he charged at Bhuvneshwar again, only to lose his shape and get caught behind.

Further joy

Hazlewood's introduction brought further joy for RCB. Having missed the last three games with a shoulder injury, the pacer emphasised his importance by removing Shreyas Iyer and Josh Inglis in successive overs. Shreyas wouldn't want to watch a replay of his wicket, for it was an ungainly hoick across the line that resulted in an outside edge.

At the start of the sixth over, Inglis top-edged a pull against his Australian compatriot and found Bhuvneshwar at fine-leg.

Wickets continued to tumble like ninepins as 38 for four became 50 for five, 60 for six and 60 for seven. Nehal Wadhera chopped on a delivery by Dayal while Shashank Singh was cleaned up by Suyash's googly. The leggie also trapped Musheer Khan leg-before in his opening over.

Marcus Stoinis waged a lone battle briefly, getting to 26 off 17 balls, before his stumps were rearranged by Suyash's another wrong 'un. That summed up the day for PBKS and RCB.

Prized scalps: Hazlewood took out Shreyas and Inglis to push PBKS on the back foot. R.V. MOORTHY

SCOREBOARD

PUNJAB KINGS

Priyansh Arya c Krunal b Dayal 7 *(5b, 1x4)*, Prabhsimran Singh c Jitesh b Bhuvneshwar 18 *(10b, 2x4, 1x6)*, Josh Inglis c Bhuvneshwar b Hazlewood 4 *(7b)*, Shreyas Iyer c Jitesh b Hazlewood 2 *(3b)*, Nehal Wadhera b Dayal 8 *(10b, 1x4)*, Marcus Stoinis b Suyash 26 *(17b, 2x4, 2x6)*, Shashank Singh b Suyash 3 *(5b)*, Musheer Khan **(Impact Player for Prabhsimran)** lbw b Suyash 0 *(3b)*, Azmatullah Omarzai c Jitesh b Hazlewood 18 *(12b, 1x4, 1x6)*, Harpreet Brar b Shepherd 4 *(11b)*, Kyle Jamieson (not out) 0 *(3b)*; Extras (lb-5, nb-1, w-5): 11; Total (in 14.1 overs): 101.

FALL OF WICKETS

1-9 (Priyansh, 1.2 overs), 2-27 (Prabhsimran, 2.6), 3-30 (Shreyas, 3.4), 4-38 (Inglis, 5.1), 5-50 (Wadhera, 6.3), 6-60 (Shashank, 8.2), 7-60 (Musheer, 8.5), 8-78 (Stoinis, 10.3), 9-97 (Harpreet, 13.3).

RCB BOWLING

Bhuvneshwar 2-0-17-1, Dayal 4-0-26-2, Hazlewood 3.1-0-21-3, Suyash 3-0-17-3, Krunal 1-0-10-0, Shepherd 1-0-5-1.

ROYAL CHALLENGERS

Phil Salt (not out) 56 *(27b, 6x4, 3x6)*, Virat Kohli c Inglis b Jamieson 12 *(12b, 2x4)*, Mayank Agarwal **(Impact Player for Suyash)** c Shreyas b Musheer 19 *(13b, 2x4, 1x6)*, Rajat Patidar (not out) 15 *(8b, 1x4, 1x6)*; Extras (lb-4): 4; Total (for two wkts. in 10 overs): 106.

FALL OF WICKETS

1-30 (Kohli, 3.2), 2-84 (Mayank, 7.5).

KINGS BOWLING

Arshdeep 2-0-20-0, Jamieson 3-1-27-1, Omarzai 1-0-10-0, Harpreet 2-0-18-0, Musheer 2-0-27-1.

Toss: RCB; **PoM:** Suyash.

RCB won by eight wickets with 10 overs to spare.

Depleted GT, MI aim to make the most of the chance in Eliminator

Vivek Krishnan
NEW CHANDIGARH

After more than two months of a long-drawn-out league phase, the future course of Gujarat Titans and Mumbai Indians in the IPL's 18th edition hinges on how they fare over 40 overs in Friday's Eliminator at the Maharaja Yadavindra Singh Stadium.

While Qualifier 1, by virtue of finishing in the top-two, offers the cushion of faltering once and rising again in the bid to make the final, there are no second chances for teams pitted against each other in the Eliminator.

Added edge

These knockout fixtures invariably carry an added edge, for all the hard yards put in reaching that far can be rendered irrelevant in the blink of an eye.

Both teams have navigated their way through these high-pressure situations in the past.

In Titans' brief existence, they have already made two finals, tasting glory in 2022 and finishing runners-up the following year.

MI, meanwhile, is the most successful franchise in IPL history–its five titles are the joint-highest alongside Chennai Super Kings.

Big task: MI captain Hardik will be expecting the players to raise their game in the Eliminator. R.V. MOORTHY

Missing foreign stars

But possibly throwing a spanner in the works is the fact that both camps have lost a few high-profile overseas players owing to international commitments. Shubman Gill's Titans will have to make do without Jos Buttler and Kagiso Rabada.

Buttler's departure will be all the more challenging to plug, given how influential he had been at No. 3 right through. It exerts added pressure on Sai Sudharsan and Gill, who have contributed 679 and 649 runs respectively, to keep up the good work as an opening pair.

For the Hardik Pandya-led MI, the exits of wicket-keeper-batter Ryan Rickelton and all-rounder Will Jacks are far from ideal. Rickelton complemented Rohit Sharma nicely at the top of the order while Jacks lent balance to the side with his hard-hitting ability and handy off-breaks.

The absence of these players robs the contest of some sheen. But there are enough match-winners on both sides capable of seizing the day nevertheless.

Today's match

ELIMINATOR

GUJARAT TITANS vs MUMBAI INDIANS

New Chandigarh, 7.30 p.m.

HEAD-TO-HEAD

Played: **7**

GT **5** | MI **2**

PREVIOUS MEETING

GT won by three wickets (DLS Method), 2025

LIVE ON STAR SPORTS 1 (SD & HD) & JIOHOTSTAR

Sinner eases past retiring Gasquet; Zverev, Djokovic stay on course

Agence France-Presse
PARIS

Jannik Sinner ended the retiring Richard Gasquet's career with a one-sided victory, to make the last 32, at the French Open on Thursday.

World No. 1 Sinner had no trouble in seeing off the 38-year-old Gasquet, playing at the tournament for the 22nd and final time, 6-3, 6-0, 6-4.

Sinner was in fine form, saving three break points to serve out the first set before dominating the rest of the match on Court Philippe Chatrier.

Third seed Alexander Zverev bounced back from losing the first set in a 3-6, 6-1, 6-2, 6-3 win over Dutchman Jesper de Jong.

Later, former champion Novak Djokovic put paid to the aspirations of local hope Corentin Moutet with a 6-3, 6-2, 7-6(1) victory.

de Minaur exits

Australian ninth seed Alex de Minaur's run of reaching four consecutive Grand Slam quarterfinals ended as he blew a two-set lead to lose 2-6, 2-6, 6-4, 6-3, 6-2 to Alexander Bublik.

Meanwhile on Wednesday, Stefanos Tsitsipas, the 20th seed, suffered his earliest French Open exit in seven years as the 2021 runner-up lost in four sets to Matteo Gigante.

Gauff advances

In the women's section, second seed Coco Gauff battled past Czech teenager Tereza Valentova with a 6-2, 6-4 win in a scrappy second-round encounter.

Sixth seed Andreeva, who had a run to the semi-finals at Roland-Garros last year, saw off American Ashlyn Kruger 6-3, 6-4.

Third seed Jessica Pegula beat fellow American Ann Li 6-3, 7-6(3) and will face former Wimbledon winner Marketa Vondrousova after the Czech's win over Magdalena Frech.

Friday's picks

WOMEN

1-Sabalenka vs Danilovic
4-Paolini vs Starodubtseva
5-Swiatek vs Cristian
8-Zheng vs Mboko
12-Rybakina vs 21-Ostapenko

MEN

2-Alcaraz vs Dzumhur
8-Musetti vs Navone
10-Rune vs Halys
12-Paul vs Kachanov
13-Shelton vs Gigante

Thanks for the memories: Sinner shows his appreciation to Gasquet after the Frenchman was honoured for his contribution. AP

IMPORTANT RESULTS

Men: Second round: Lehecka (Cze) bt 26-Fokina (Esp) 6-3, 3-6, 6-1, 6-2; 14-Fils (Fra) bt Munar (Esp) 7-6(3), 7-6 (4), 2-6, 0-6, 6-4; Bublik (Kaz) bt 9-de Minaur (Aus) 2-6, 2-6, 6-4, 6-3, 6-2; Rocha (Por) bt 19-Mensik (Cze) 2-6, 1-6, 6-4, 6-3, 6-3; 1-Sinner (Ita) bt Gasquet (Fra) 6-3, 6-0, 6-4.
17-Rublev (Rus) bt Walton (Aus) 7-6(1), 6-1, 7-6(5); 3-Zverev (Ger) bt de Jong (Ned) 3-6, 6-1, 6-2, 6-3; 6-Djokovic (Srb) bt Moutet (Fra) 6-3, 6-2, 7-6(1).
10-Rune (Den) bt Nava (USA) 6-3, 7-6(5), 6-3; 15-Tiafoe (USA) bt Carreno Busta (Esp) 6-4, 6-3, 6-1; 12-Paul (USA) bt Fucsovics (Hun) 4-6, 2-6, 6-3, 7-5, 6-4; Gigante (Ita) bt 20-Tsitsipas (Gre) 6-4, 5-7, 6-2, 6-4; Dzumhur (BIH) bt 31-Perricard (Fra) 7-6(4), 6-3, 4-6, 6-4.
Women: Second round: 6-Andreeva (Rus) bt Kruger (USA) 6-3, 6-4; Vondrousova (Cze) bt 25-Frech (Pol) 6-0, 4-6, 6-3; 3-Pegula (USA) bt Li (USA) 6-3, 7-6(3); Kudermetova (Rus) bt 15-Krejcikova (Cze) 6-0, 6-3; 2-Gauff (USA) bt Valentova (Cze) 6-2, 6-4.
10-Badosa (Esp) bt Elena-Gabriela Ruse (Rum) 3-6, 6-4, 6-4; 7-Keys (USA) bt Boulter (GBr) 6-1, 6-3.
1-Sabalenka (Blr) bt Teichmann (Sui) 6-3, 6-1; Yastremska (Ukr) bt 11-Shnaider (Rus) 7-5, 7-5; 19-Samsonova (Rus) bt Romero Gormaz (Esp) 6-3, 6-3; 12-Rybakina (Kaz) bt Jovic (USA) 6-3, 6-3; 21-Ostapenko (Lat) bt Dolehide (USA) 5-7, 6-3, 6-3.

Fallen seeds

Men: 9-de Minaur, 19-Mensik, 20-Tsitsipas, 26-Fokina, 31-Perricard
Women: 11-Shnaider, 15-Krejcikova, 25-Frech

INBRIEF

Pakistan gets the better of Bangladesh, takes 1-0 lead

Pacer Hasan Ali took five for 30 and led Pakistan to a 37-run win over Bangladesh in the opening game of the three-match T20I series in Lahore.

The scores: Pakistan 201/7 in 20 overs (Salman 56, Shadab 48) bt Bangladesh 164 in 19.2 overs (Litton 48; Hasan 5/30). **Toss:** Pakistan. **PoM**: Shadab.

Mor wins gold as Indian wrestlers bag six medals

Anil Mor (55kg) secured a gold medal as the Indian Greco-Roman wrestlers bagged six medals on the opening day of the Ulaanbaatar Open Ranking Series on Thursday. Prince (82kg) and Nitesh (97kg) took silver medals, while Neeraj (67kg), Nishant Phogat (77kg) and Karan Kamboj (87kg) claimed bronze in depleted fields.

Tanwar, Gill make the finals in Thailand Open boxing

Naman Tanwar (90kg) and Anshul Gill (90+kg) registered hard-fought wins over their respective opponents from Uzbekistan to enter the finals at the Thailand Open international boxing tournament in Bangkok on Thursday. Tanwar overcame Juraboev Elyorbek 4-1, while Gill edged past Rustamov Abdurakhmon 3-2 in the semifinals. In women's competitions, Tamanna (51kg), Priya (57kg) and Lalfakmawii (80kg) exited in the last-four stage.

Freestyle wrestler Jaskaran suspended for doping

Freestyle wrestler Jaskaran Singh, the 2023 Asian under-20 champion in 65kg, has been handed a three-year suspension for testing positive for a banned substance. Jaskaran tested positive for SARMS LGD-4033 (ligandrol) metabolite (which improves muscle mass) following an in-competition test during the 2023 Asian Championships in Amman, the International Testing Agency (ITA), on behalf of United World Wrestling (UWW), said. For Jaskaran, who was provisionally suspended with immediate effect, the three-year sanction began from the date of sample collection (July 19, 2023) after it was reduced by one year due to his early admission of the anti-doping rule violation. His results, including the Asian u-20 title, were disqualified.

Chelsea beats Betis to win Conference League

Chelsea came roaring back from a 1-0 half-time deficit to beat Real Betis 4-1 and lift the UEFA Conference League at Wroclaw, Poland, on Wednesday. Enzo Fernandez, Nicolas Jackson, Jadon Sancho and Moises Caicedo struck in the second half to secure the Blues' first trophy since 2021.

The result: Real Betis 1 (Ezzalzouli 9) lost to Chelsea 4 (Fernandez 65, Jackson 70, Sancho 83, Caicedo 90+1).

AFC U-23 Asian Cup qualifiers: India placed in Group H

The India under-23 men's national football team has been clubbed alongside Qatar, Bahrain, and Brunei Darussalam in Group H of the AFC U-23 Asian Cup qualifiers. Qatar, which is the highest seeded team among the four in the group, will host Group H league with matches scheduled between September 1 to 9, 2025.

Shaurya scalps six for Just Cricket Academy

Shaurya Sagar (6/15) starred in Just Cricket Academy's six-wicket win over Panthers CA in the Tiger Cup under-14 tournament in Bengaluru.

The scores: RKO3 178/6 in 28 overs (Saatvik Sanikop 56, Karthikeya Singh 50, Atharv Sagar 33) lost to Criclife CA 183/1 in 19.4 overs (R. Lalithesh 87, Mahin Srikanth 65).
Panthers 115 in 22.1 overs (Shaurya Sagar 6/15, Mokshith Yadav 3/11) lost to Just 116/4 in 12.3 overs (Sameer Hegde 54).
RCA (Mysuru) 205/5 in 30 overs (Udith Kumar 100, C. Dhanush 35) bt PESCA 106 in 20.2 overs (Samar Modhe 34).

LIVE TELECAST

Roland Garros: Sony Sports Ten 2, 5 (SD & HD), LIV & FanCode, 2.30 & 8.30 p.m.

England Women vs West Indies Women: 1st ODI, Sony LIV, 5.30 p.m.

IPL: Star Sports 1 (SD & HD) & JioHotstar, 7.30 p.m.

Jyothi, Sable and women's 4x400m quartet make it a golden day for India

The men's 4x400m relay team ends with a silver; Ancy and Shaili complete a 2-3 in long jump; Nandini leads in heptathlon after four events

ASIAN CHAMPIONSHIPS

Sports Bureau

Superb show: Rupal, Subha, Jisna and Rajitha won the gold for India in the 4x400m relay, finishing ahead of Sri Lanka and Vietnam. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Delivering in style: Jyothi produced her season's best while Sable ended India's long drought in steeplechase. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Some of the country's biggest medal hopes duly delivered on the big stage as India added six medals to its tally including three gold on day three of the Asian Athletics Championships in Gumi, South Korea, on Thursday.

Jyothi Yarraji, struggling with injuries, a change in running technique and an indifferent year so far produced her best performance of the season to successfully defend her title in the 100m hurdles with a new championship record of 12.96 seconds, although it was slower than the 12.73s she had targeted for automatic World Championships qualification. This was also her first sub-13 run of the season, finishing ahead of Asian Games bronze medallist Yumi Tanaka of Japan and China's Wu Yanni.

It was a productive outing for India and redemption time for the athletes on a day that saw the evening session delayed by more than two hours due to torrential rains and thunderstorms for the second day running.

The conditions, however, did little to halt India's medal charge with Avinash Sable improving on his bronze from the 2023 edition to win the 3000m steeplechase and the Indian women's 4x400m relay team scorching the track for the country's fifth gold in the competition.

Sable, in his third international outing this year after the Diamond Leagues, clocked 8:20.92 for a season's best to finish more than three seconds ahead of Japan's Yutaro Niinae, who had led for a large part of the race till the final lap.

Sable also became the third Indian to win multiple medals in the event and the first gold in 36 years after Deena Ram in 1989.

The quartet of Rupal, Subha Venkatesan, Jisna Mathew and Kunja Rajitha saw the Indian women come from behind to outrun Sri Lanka and Vietnam for gold in 3:34.18 with Subha playing the perfect anchor for the second day running. The 25-year old, third at the final bend, took off with powerful strides on the final straight to add to her and India's bronze from the 2023 edition.

The men's 4x400m relay team, however, had to settle for silver in 3:03.67 after a slow start from Jay Kumar and while Dharamveer Choudhary and T.S. Manu tried to increase the pace, it took tremendous effort from T.K. Vishal on the final lap to push China to third spot. On the field, Ancy Sojan and Shaili Singh completed a 2-3 in the long jump with a best of 6.33m and 6.30m respectively, behind Iran's Mobini Arani Rehaneh (6.40m).

Earlier in the day, Sanjivani Jadhav clocked a season's best of 33:08.17 to finish fifth in the rescheduled 10,000m while Seema was placed sixth in 33:08.23. Agasara Nandini was leading in heptathlon with 3610 points in four events at the end of the opening day.

Samardeep Singh Gill, however, could only manage a best throw of 19.25m to finish sixth in shot put –Tajinderpal Singh Toor was excluded from the squad due to poor form – and Sarvesh Kushare placed fifth in high jump with a best of 2.19m. Seema finished fourth in discus throw with 56.15m.

Test regulars, hopefuls ready for the grind against England Lions

CRICKET

Press Trust of India
CANTERBURY (ENGLAND)

A clutch of frontline Test players, including opener Yashasvi Jaiswal and all-rounder Nitish Kumar Reddy, will be eager to acclimatise to English conditions during India-A's first four-day unofficial Test against the England Lions, beginning here on Friday.

Apart from Jaiswal and Nitish, the India-A side has Abhimanyu Easwaran, Dhruv Jurel, Karun Nair, pacers Akash Deep and Shardul Thakur who will want to have a feel of the pronounced swing on offer here, ahead of the Test series against England.

Nitish Reddy was impressive in the Test series against Australia. But the inclusion of Shardul is an indication the Indian management is in the hunt for more bowling firepower.

From England's perspective, it will be monitoring the fitness of Jordan Cox after he was ruled out of the recent one-off Test against Zimbabwe with an abdominal muscle injury.

The teams (from): England Lions: James Rew (Capt.), Farhan Ahmed, Rehan Ahmed, Sonny Baker, Jordan Cox, Rocky Flintoff, Emilio Gay, Tom Haines, George Hill, Josh Hull, Eddie Jack, Ben McKinney, Dan Mousley, Ajeet Singh Dale, Chris Woakes and Max Holden.

India-A: Abhimanyu Easwaran (Capt.), Yashasvi Jaiswal, Karun Nair, Dhruv Jurel (vice-capt.) (wk), Nitish Kumar Reddy, Shardul Thakur, Ishan Kishan (wk), Manav Suthar, Tanush Kotian, Mukesh Kumar, Akash Deep, Harshit Rana, Anshul Kamboj, Khaleel Ahmed, Ruturaj Gaikwad, Sarfaraz Khan, Tushar Deshpande and Harsh Dubey.

Match starts at 2.30 p.m. IST.

Birthday boy Gukesh bests Nakamura, gets campaign back on track

NORWAY CHESS

Press Trust of India
STAVANGER

Good going: Gukesh put Nakamura under time pressure to win in 42 moves and collect three points. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

World champion D. Gukesh brought his campaign back on track on his 19th birthday, defeating world No. 2 Hikaru Nakamura of the USA in the third round to open his account even as Arjun Erigaisi suffered his first defeat in the Norway chess tournament here on Thursday.

Gukesh, who suffered back-to-back losses to Magnus Carlsen and compatriot Arjun in the first two rounds, put Nakamura – one of the best rapid and blitz players – under time pressure to win in 42 moves and collect three points.

Playing white, Gukesh, who was constantly under time pressure in the last two games, made Nakamura stare at the clock in round three of the six-player double round-robin tournament.

Nakamura realised soon after the start of the game that something had gone wrong early on in a Giuoco Piano opening.

He decided to reverse the situation by switching to a kingside attack that could exploit Gukesh's vulnerability after a difficult start. However, the Indian was up to the task.

Though Nakamura came agonisingly close to a draw, he admitted to relaxing too soon. When the American offered a draw on move 30, he was instead met by a move, which sent him on a downward spiral.

It was a remarkable fightback for Gukesh after two successive defeats and he acknowledged that the previous two days had been tough for him.

Caruana jumped into sole lead after logging in three more points to take his tally to six, while Carlsen is second on five points and Arjun and Nakamura tied for third with 4.5 points each.

Humpy in joint lead

In the women's competition, Koneru Humpy, playing with white, emerged joint leader with Ukraine's Anna Muzychuk with six points following a win over Iranian-Spanish WGM Sara Khadem in third round.

The results: Third round: Open: Fabiano Caruana (USA, 6) bt Arjun Erigaisi (Ind, 4.5); D. Gukesh (Ind, 3) bt Hikaru Nakamura (USA, 4.5); Magnus Carlsen (Nor, 5) lost to Wei Yi (Chn, 2.5), in Armageddon tie-breaker. **Women:** K. Humpy (Ind, 6) bt Sara Khadem (Esp, 2); Ju Wenjun (Chn, 4) bt R. Vaishali (Ind, 2), in Armageddon tie-breaker.

Satwik-Chirag advance; Prannoy, Sindhu bow out

BADMINTON

Press Trust of India
SINGAPORE

The men's doubles team of Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty entered the quarterfinals, while P.V. Sindhu suffered an early exit in the Singapore Open badminton tournament here on Thursday.

Satwiksairaj and Chirag beat Indonesian duo of Sabar Karyaman Gutama and Moh Reza Pahlevi Isfahani 19-21, 21-16, 21-19.

Sindhu went down to world No. 5 Chen Yufei of China 9-21, 21-18, 16-21.

H.S. Prannoy bowed out following a 16-21, 14-21 loss to Frenchman Christo Popov.

The results (pre-quarters): Men: Christo Popov (Fra) bt H.S. Prannoy 21-16, 21-14. **Doubles:** Satwiksairaj Rankireddy & Chirag Shetty bt Sabar Karyaman Gutama & Moh Reza Pahlevi Isfahani (Ina) 19-21, 21-16, 21-19. **Women:** Chen Yufei (Chn) bt P.V. Sindhu 21-9, 18-21, 21-16. **Doubles:** Jia Yi Fan & Zhang Shu Xian (Chn) bt Treesa Jolly & Gayatri Gopi Chand 21-8, 21-10. **Mixed doubles:** Tang Chun Man & Tse Ying Suet (HKg) bt Rohan Kapoor & Ruthvika Shivani Gadde 21-10, 21-16.

Indian teams for Asian squash championships announced

Sports Bureau
CHENNAI

The Squash Rackets Federation of India (SRFI) on Thursday announced the national teams for the Asian individual championships (June 17 to 21) and Asian doubles championships (June 23 to 26) in Sarawak, Malaysia.

Only doubles

Abhay Singh and Anahat Singh, India's leading singles players, have chosen to play only in doubles.

The duo won the mixed doubles title in the National doubles championships in Chennai recently. Abhay also clinched the men's doubles title with Velavan Senthilkumar while Anahat won the women's doubles crown partnering Joshna Chinappa.

Speaking to *The Hindu* here on Thursday, Cyrus Poncha, Secretary of SRFI, said, "In the beginning itself, we had a discussion with them (Abhay & Anahat) and their priority was to play the doubles event."

Going by the rule book

The SRFI insisted that it has gone by the rule book when it came to selecting the teams.

"For Asian individuals, we have chosen the players who performed well in the trials and in doubles, we have selected all those who finished in the top two in the Chennai Nationals.

"All, as per the guidelines that SRFI had issued in November last year in its website," Cyrus added.

The teams:
Asian individual championships: Men: Velavan Senthilkumar, Suraj Chand, Rahul Baitha, Diwakar Singh.
Women: Akansha Salunkhe, Joshna Chinappa, R. Pooja Arthi, Shameena Riaz.
Asian doubles championships: Men: Abhay & Velavan; Ravi Dixit & Guhan Senthilkumar.
Women: Anahat Singh & Joshna Chinappa; Pooja Arthi & S. Rathika.
Mixed: Abhay & Anahat; Velavan & Joshna.

India to host Australia ahead of Women's ODI World Cup

Press Trust of India
NEW DELHI

India women will play Australia in a three-match home series in September ahead of the ODI World Cup.

The fixtures: Australia women's tour of India: ODIs: Sept. 14, 17 and 20, all in Chennai.
Australia-A men's tour: Four-day matches: Sept. 16 to 19 and Sept. 23 to 26, both Lucknow; **One-dayers:** Sept. 30, Oct. 3 and Oct. 5, all at Kanpur.
South Africa-A men's tour: Four-day matches: Oct. 30 to Nov. 2 and Nov. 6-9, both at CoE, Bengaluru; **One-dayers:** Nov. 13, 16 and 19, all at Chinnaswamy Stadium, Bengaluru.

DOCUMENTS LOST

I, Sandhya R W/o Late Chandrashekar A.R. R/at No.1002/A, Raghavendra Nilaya, 9th Main Road, 2nd Cross, Srinivasanagar, Bengaluru-560050 do hereby solemnly state that, I have lost a Release Deed with Register No.BSG-1-07261-2015-16 dated 29th February 2016, registered at Office of the Sub-Registrar, Basavanagudi, Bengaluru. I have filed a complaint with Karnataka State Police on 13.05.2025 and have obtained Lost Report No.1604084/2025. I further state that above given details are true to my knowledge vide affidavit dated 15.05.2025 sworn to Notary H.G. Venkataramu.

PUBLIC NOTICE

Public are hereby informed that my clients **1. Smt. AMRUTHA YUVARAJ, W/o Yuvaraj Narasimhalu, 2. Sri. YUVARAJ NARASIMHALU s/o Narasimhalu B, 3.Sri. JAIKRISHNA YUVARAJ, S/o. Yuvaraj Narasimhalu,** all are residing at No.150, "Vaishnavi Nilaya", 4th Cross, Kakathiyanagar, Bangalore 560061, have entered into agreement to sell on 02.05.2025, in order to purchase the schedule property as described in the Schedule hereunder from its owner **1. Smt. Sheefaah .F. d/o late Mohandas w/o Fakruddin M.** residing at No. FF6, Majestic Garden Apartments, Phase 2, behind Metro Cash and Carry, Opp. Kanakapura Road, Bangalore

The General Public are hereby notified that whosoever has any objections/Claims to the above referred Transaction or having any right, Title, Interest or any type of claim over the schedule property are called upon to send their objections/Lodge their claim with documentary proof to the below mentioned address within **10 days** from this date, failing which it is deemed that there are no Objections and my Clients would proceed further for Registration of Schedule Property to their names.

SCHEDULE PROPERTY

The property bearing **Site No.229** BBMP PID No. 55-565-229, in the layout formed by the Bharath Housing Co-Operative Society Ltd., Carved out of Sy.Nos.17 and 18 of Uttarahalli Village, Uttarahalli Hobli, Bengaluru South Taluk, situated at **3rd Cross, BHCS Layout, Uttarahalli, Bengaluru** coming under purview of BBMP, Ward No.182- Padmanabhanagar Ward, Bengaluru, New E-PID No. 7495358769, measuring East to west **30 ft**, North to South **40 ft,** totally measuring **1200 Sq.ft** together with building on it and bounded on:

East by : Site No.228
West by : Site No.230
North by : 30 feet Road
South by : Site No.226

RAVISHANKAR, ADVOCATE,
No.42/1, Appu Rao Road,
Chamarajpet, Bangalore -560018
Mobile : 9880769388, 9035407977

CENTRAL RAILWAY

SOLAPUR DIVISION

SUPPLY, INSTALLATION & VARIOUS OTHER WORKS

Divisional Railway Manager (Works), Central Railway, Solapur on Behalf of President of India, invites e-tenders from the reputed firms / contractor for the following works: **(1) Tender Notice No.: 06-2025-SrDENCo. Name of Work :** Solapur Division - Supply and Installation of GFL-78 nos. **Approximate Cost of the Work:** ₹ 7,57,900/-. **Earnest Money :** ₹ 12,15,69,552/-. **Completion Period of the Work:** 60 Months. **Maintenance Period:** 60 Months. **(2) Tender Notice No.: 07-2025-SrDENCO. Name of Work :** Balance work of RUBs for Provision of cover sheds, natural drains, extension of retaining wall and other misc. works under ADEN/T/SUR and ADEN/KLBG section. **Approximate Cost of the Work:** ₹ 22,06,75,626.85. **Earnest Money :** ₹ 12,53,400/-. **Completion Period of the Work:** 12 Months. **Maintenance Period:** 12 Months. **(3) Tender Notice No.: 08-2025-SrDENCO. Name of Work :** Balance work of RUBs for provision of natural drains, extension of retaining wall and other misc. works under ADEN/KWV and ADEN/PVR section. **Approximate Cost of the Work:** ₹ 20,38,48,220.21. **Earnest Money :** ₹ 11,69,300/-. **Completion Period of the Work:** 12 Months. **Maintenance Period:** 12 Months. **(4) Tender Notice No.: 09-2025-SrDENCO. Name of Work :** Balance work of RUBs for Provision of cover sheds, natural drains, extension of retaining wall and other misc. works under ADEN/LUR and ADEN/PVR section. **Approximate Cost of the Work:** ₹ 20,19,42,026.21. **Earnest Money :** ₹ 11,59,800/-. **Completion Period of the Work:** 12 Months. **Maintenance Period:** 12 Months. **(5) Tender Notice No.: 10-2025-SrDENCO. Name of Work :** Balance work of RUBs for Provision of cover sheds, natural drains, extension of retaining wall and other misc. works under ADEN/PVR section. **Approximate Cost of the Work:** ₹ 22,63,89,848.25. **Earnest Money :** ₹ 12,82,000/-. **Completion Period of the Work:** 12 Months. **Maintenance Period:** 12 Months. **Last Date & Time of Uploading quoted Tender on www.ireps.gov.in website: 18/06/2025** upto **15.00 Hrs. Date & Time of Opening of Tender on www.ireps.gov.in: 18/06/2025** at **15.30 Hrs.** The prospective tenderers are advised to revisit the website frequently before the date of closing of tender to note any changes/ corrigenda issued for this tender. Website: **www.ireps.gov.in**

DRM (W)
Solapur

खतरनाक व विस्फोटक सामान के साथ यात्रा करना दंडनीय अपराध है

SolSUR/48

BANARAS LOCOMOTIVE WORKS, VARANASI-221004

Bid No. E-09/2025-2026 **E-TENDERS** **Date: 27.05.2025**

E-Tenders are invited for & on behalf of the President of India, for the supply of following items. Only e-offer will be accepted for which vender must have Class III Digital Signature and registrations on **IREPS**. **The details of tenders are in the following sequence - S.No., Tender No., (Due Date), PL No., Description and Quantity. 1.** 03251013, 16/06/25,15.00, P. No. 29232685, HOSE FOR CAB HEATER, 1407 MTR. **2.** 03251045, 25/06/25,15.00, P.No. 29130049, HIGH CAPACITY DRAFT GEAR, 890 Nos. **3.** 03251008A, 19/06/25,15.00, P. No. 29162051, TWIN TOWER AIR DRYER, 706 Nos. **4.** 03251099B, 12/06/25,15.00, P. No. 29250559, SEALING RUBBERS, 724 Set. **5.** 03251007, 18/06/25,15.00, P.No. 29180016, BRAKE CONTROL SYSTEM, 693 Set **6.** 03251006A, 02/07/25,15.00, P.No. 29230068, SET OF NEOPRENE HOSE, 641 Set **7.** 03251112, 30/06/25,15.00, P.No. 29611519, SET OF OTHER HOSES, 712 Set **8.** 03252521, 13/06/25,15.00, P.No. 29171751, Complete Shell Kit for WAP-7 Push-Pull, 20 Set **9.** 03251758, 08/07/25,15.00, P.No. 29420064, BULL GEAR 107 TEETH, 2167 Nos. **10.** 03251019B, 08/07/25,15.00, P.No. 29420040 Gear (72 Teeth), 1853 Nos. **11.** 03251070A, 23/06/25,15.00, P.No. 29170503, Under frame assembly complete, 14 Set. **NOTE:** For full details of EMD and downloading of tender documents, please visit Website: **www.ireps.gov.in CORRIGENDUM NOTICE :- 12. Tender No.:** 04251033 **Bid No.:** E-04/2025-26, **Rev.:** 01 **Existing Due Date:** 21/05/2025, **Revise Due Date:** 30/05/2025. **Note:-** All other terms and conditions shall remain unchanged. The details of above Tenders are available on **Website www.blw.indianrailways.gov.in** and **www.ireps.gov.in**

PRO/BLW/S-09 **Principal Chief Material Manager**

/blwvaranasi" Website:- www.blw.indianrailways.gov.in"

कार्यपालक अभियंता का कार्यालय, पथ निर्माण विभाग, पथ प्रमंडल, राँची

ई-प्रोक्योरमेंट सूचना

टेन्डर रेफरेंन्स नं0–प0नि0वि0/राँची–02/2025–26 दिनांक :–28.05.2025

1.	कार्य का नाम	हरमू रोड से टेलिफोन एक्सेन्ज रोड भाया अवधूत आश्रम, सेवा सदन एवं जालान टिम्बर रोड तथा मेन रोड उर्दू लाईब्रेरी से किशोरगंज चौक भाया राँची लेक रोड (कुल लम्बाई–4.110 कि0मी0) का राईडिंग क्वालिटी में सुधार (IRQP) कार्य वर्ष 2025–26.
2.	प्राक्कलि राषि (रू0 लाख में)	रू0 320.22455 लाख (रूपये तीन करोड़ बीस लाख बाईस हजार चार सौ पचपन रूपये) मात्र।
3.	अग्रधन की राशि (रू0 लाख में)	रू0 3.21 लाख (रूपये तीन लाख एक्कीस हजार) मात्र।
4.	कार्य पूर्ण करने की अवधि	03 (तीन) माह
5.	वेबसाईड पर निविदा प्रकाशन की तिथि	30.05.2025 10.30 बजे पूर्वाह्न
6.	निविदा प्राप्ति की अंतिम तिथि/समय	19.06.2025 12.00 बजे दोपहर तक
7.	निविदा खोलने तिथि/समय	20.06.2025 12.30 बजे
8.	निविदा प्रकाशित करने वाले कार्यालय का नाम एवं पता	कार्यपालक अभियंता पथ निर्माण विभाग, पथ प्रमंडल राँची, मोहराबादी, राँची–834008.
9.	प्रोक्योरमेंट पदाधिकारी का सम्पर्क संख्या	0651–2361018
10.	ई–प्रोक्योरमेंट सेल का हेल्पलाईन संख्या	0651–2403007

- प्राक्कलित राशि एवं अग्रधन की राशि घट–बढ़ सकती है, जिसे **Tender Online Upload** में देखा जा सकता है, एवं किसी भी प्रकार का बदलाव ***http://jharkhandtenders.gov.in*** पर देखा जा सकता है।
- पथ निर्माण विभाग, झारखण्ड सरकार में निबंधित संवेदकों के लिए ***UCAN*** निबंधन आवश्यक है।
- नियम एवं शर्तें के लिए वेबसाईट ***http://jharkhandtenders.gov.in*** पर देखें।

PR 353787 Road Construction Dept कार्यपालक अभियंता
Road Division Ranchi(25-26)#D पथ निर्माण विभाग,पथ प्रमंडल, राँची

KARNATAKA POWER CORPORATION LIMITED

CIN: U85110KA1970SGC001919

BRIEF SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION

(Two Cover System) (Through E-Procurement Portal only)

KPCL invites tenders through e-procurement portal mode **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** for the following works:

RAICHUR THERMAL POWER STATION

1) KPCL/2025-26/PS/WORK_INDENT2930 Dated: 21.05.2025 RTPS-210MW Chemical cleaning of Condenser tubes of Unit-2. **EMD: Rs.1,37,000/-**. Last date for submission of tender: **05.06.2025.**

2) KPCL/2025-26/PS/WORK_INDENT2834 Dated: 21.05.2025 RTPS-Removal of old Pad insulation, Supply and application of new Ceramic Pad insulation of HP, IP Turbines, HP and IP stop & control valves, HP & LP Bypass valves, MS & HRH Strainer, cross around pipe, HP Heaters and other connected piping's. **EMD: Rs.1,30,000/-.** Last date for submission of tender: **04.06.2025.** Further details can be obtained from **Executive Engineer (TM-1),** RTPS, KPCL, Shakthinagar-584170, Raichur Dist. Mob: 9449597971. E-mail: eetm1rtps@gmail.com

BELLARY THERMAL POWER STATION

KPCL/2025-26/PS/WORK_INDENT2887 Date: 13.05.2025 Re-conditioning of different size and rating high pressure valves of Unit-1, 2 (2X500MW) & 3 (1X700MW). **Rs.22,400/-.** Last date for receipt of tender: **05.06.2025 at 16.00 Hrs.** Further details can be had from the **Executive Engineer (TM),** BTPS, KPCL, Kudathini-583152. Ballari Dist. Mob: +919480830323.

ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸರ್ಕಾರ
ಕಾರ್ಯಪಾಲಕ ಇಂಜಿನಿಯರ್‌ರವರ ಕಛೇರಿ,
ಲೋಕೋಪಯೋಗಿ ಇಲಾಖೆ, ವಿಶೇಷ ವಿಭಾಗ, ಮೈಸೂರು

ಅಲ್ಪಾವಧಿ ಐಟಂವಾರು ಟೆಂಡರು ಅಧಿಸೂಚನೆ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ:03/2025–26
ದಿನಾಂಕ: 28.05.2025

ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ರಾಜ್ಯಪಾಲರ ಪರವಾಗಿ ಕಾರ್ಯಪಾಲಕ ಇಂಜಿನಿಯರ್, ಲೋಕೋಪಯೋಗಿ ಇಲಾಖೆ, ವಿಶೇಷ ವಿಭಾಗ, ಮೈಸೂರು ಇವರಿಂದ ಒಟ್ಟು ಮೈಸೂರು ನಗರದ ಸರ್ಕಾರಿ ಮಹಾರಾಜ ಸಂಸ್ಕೃತ ಕಾಲೇಜಿನ ಮಧ್ಯಮಾಂಗಣ ಕಟ್ಟಡದ ದುರಸ್ಥಿ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿ. (ಇಂಡೆಂಟ್ ನಂ.21927) ಗೆ ಲೆಕ್ಕ ಶೀರ್ಷಿಕೆ 8443 ಠೇವಣಿವಂತಿಕೆ ಅಡಿಯಲ್ಲಿ KW-3ರ ನಿಬಂಧನೆ ಮತ್ತು ಷರತ್ತುಗಳನ್ವಯ ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ–ಪ್ರೋಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್ ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ ಅಲ್ಪಾವಧಿ ಐಟಂವಾರು ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ನ್ನು (http://KPPP.karnataka.gov.in) ಆಹ್ವಾನಿಸಲಾಗಿದ್ದು, ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಕ್ವೋರಿಸ್ ಗೆ ದಿ: 02.06.2025 ಆಗಿರುತ್ತದೆ. ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ನ್ನು ದಿ: 05.06.2025 ರಂದು ಸಂಜೆ 4.00 ಘಂಟೆವರೆಗೆ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸಬಹುದಾಗಿರುತ್ತದೆ. ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಯ ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ಗೆ ಇಟ್ಟ ಮೊತ್ತ ರೂ.52.30 ಲಕ್ಷಗಳು ಹಾಗೂ ಇ.ಎಂ.ಡಿ.ಯ ಮೊತ್ತ ರೂ.1.05 ಲಕ್ಷಗಳಾಗಿರುತ್ತದೆ. ಲೋಕೋಪಯೋಗಿ 3ನೇ ದರ್ಜೆ ಮತ್ತು ಮೇಲ್ಪಟ್ಟ ಲೋಕೋಪಯೋಗಿ ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆದಾರರು ಭಾಗವಹಿಸಬಹುದಾಗಿರುತ್ತದೆ. ಸದರಿ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಯು ಸಾಮಾನ್ಯ ವರ್ಗಕ್ಕೆ ಮೀಸಲಿರಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ. ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗೆ ಸಂಬಂಧಿಸಿದಂತೆ ಹೆಚ್ಚಿನ ವಿವರಗಳು ಬೇಕಾದಲ್ಲಿ ಕೆಳಗೆ ಸಹಿ ಮಾಡಿರುವವರ ಕಛೇರಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಕೆಲಸದ ವೇಳೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಪಡೆಯಬಹುದಾಗಿರುತ್ತದೆ.

ಸಹಿ/– ಕಾರ್ಯಪಾಲಕ ಇಂಜಿನಿಯರ್, ಲೋಕೋಪಯೋಗಿ ಇಲಾಖೆ,
ವಿಶೇಷ ವಿಭಾಗ, ನಜರ್‌ಬಾದ್, ಮೈಸೂರು.

DIPR/DDMYS/265/KSMCA/221/2025-26

ಮಹಾನಗರ ಪಾಲಿಕೆ ಕಾರ್ಯಾಲಯ, ದಾವಣಗೆರೆ.

ನಂ:ದಾಮಪಾ:ಕಾಅ1.ಇ.ಟೆಂಡರ್:11:2025–26 ದಿನಾಂಕ:28–05–2025

ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ (ಕೆಪಿಪಿಪಿ ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್ ಮುಖಾಂತರ)

2025–26 ನೇ ಸಾಲಿನ ಪಾಲಿಕೆ ಸಾಮಾನ್ಯ ನಿಧಿ–37 ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಳು, 2024–25 ನೇ ಸಾಲಿನ ಪಾಲಿಕೆ ಸಾಮಾನ್ಯ ನಿಧಿ. 04 ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಳು, 2024–25 ನೇ ಸಾಲಿನ ಪಾಲಿಕೆ ಸಾಮಾನ್ಯ ನಿಧಿ (3ನೇ ಕರೆ) –01 ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಳು, : ಒಟ್ಟು 42 ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಳಿಗೆ ಕೆಪಿಪಿಪಿ ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್ ಮುಖಾಂತರ ಸಿಂಗಲ್/ಡಬಲ್ ಕವರ್ ಪದ್ಧತಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಕರೆಯಲಾಗಿದ್ದು, ಅರ್ಹ ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆದಾರರು/ಪಜನ್ಸಿದಾರರು/ ಸರಬರಾಜುದಾರರು ಇ–ಪ್ರಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್ ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್ ವೆಬ್ ಸೈಟ್ https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in ನಲ್ಲಿ ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ಗಾಗಿ ಭಾಗವಹಿಸಬಹುದು ಹೆಚ್ಚಿನ ವಿವರಗಳನ್ನು ಮಹಾನಗರ ಪಾಲಿಕೆಯ ಕಛೇರಿಯ ವೆಬ್ ಸೈಟ್ www.davanagerecity.mrc.gov.in ರಲ್ಲಿ ಹಾಗೂ ಕೆಪಿಪಿಪಿ ಸಹಾಯಕ ದೂರವಾಣಿ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ: +91–8046010000 +91–8068948777 ರಿಂದ ಮಾಹಿತಿ ಪಡೆಯಬಹುದು. ಅಂದಾಜು ಮೊತ್ತ, ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ಗಿಟ್ಟ ಮೊತ್ತ, ಇ.ಎಂ.ಡಿ. ಮೊತ್ತ ಮತ್ತು ಟೆಂಡರ್ ದಿನಾಂಕಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಯಾವುದೇ ಬದಲಾವಣೆ ಇದ್ದಲ್ಲಿ ಕೆಪಿಪಿಪಿ ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ ಗಮನಿಸುವುದು ಹಾಗೂ ಯಾವುದೇ ಪತ್ರಿಕಾ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆಗಳನ್ನು ಹೊರಡಿಸಲಾಗುವುದಿಲ್ಲ.

ಕ್ರಮ ಸಂ.1 ರಿಂದ 42ರ ಅಲ್ಪಾವಧಿ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗೆ : ಕೆ.ಪಿ.ಪಿ.ಪಿ.ಯಲ್ಲಿ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ದಾಖಲೆಗಳನ್ನು ಪಡೆಯಬಹುದಾದ ದಿನಾಂಕ : 04–06–2025 ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಬಗ್ಗೆ ಮಾಹಿತಿ ಪಡೆಯಲು ಕೊನೆಯ ದಿನಾಂಕ: 18–06–2025 ಸಮಯ : 16.00 ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸುವ ಅಂತಿಮ ದಿನಾಂಕ 18–06–2025 ಸಮಯ : 17.00 ಟೆಂಡರ್/ತಾಂತ್ರಿಕ ಬಿಡ್ ತೆರೆಯುವ ದಿನಾಂಕ : 20–06–2025 ಸಮಯ : 11.00

ವಾಸಾಇ/ದಾವಣಗೆರೆ/103/ಕೆಎಸ್‌ಎಂಸಿಎ/2025–26

ಸಹಿ/–ಕಾರ್ಯಪಾಲಕ ಅಭಿಯಂತರರು,
ಮಹಾನಗರ ಪಾಲಿಕೆ, ದಾವಣಗೆರೆ

Government of Karnataka
DIRECTORATE OF CHILD PROTECTION
Department of Child Protection Unit
CHAMARAJANAGAR

Tender Notification No : DCPU/MANPOWER/E-TENDER/02/2025-26
DATE : 26-05-2025

E-TENDER NOTIFICATION
(Through KPP Portal only - Two cover System)

District Child Protection Officer, District Child Protection Unit, Chamarajangar Invites the Tender for **"Providing Various Manpower Service to District Child Protection Unit & Child Help Line on Out Source Basis to Chamarajangar"** from Eligible Vendors / Bidders / Agencies who have executed similar type of works in central / State Government / Reputed private companies in Two Cover System. 1) Estimate Amount: Rs. 64.40 Lakhs, 2) EMD : Rs. 1,28,800/-, 3) Last Date and Time for Receipt of Tenders through KPP Portal Only: 09-06-2025 upto 17:30:00 hrs, 4) Time and Date of Opening of Technical Bid: 11-06-2025 after 11:30:00 hrs, 5) Time and Date of Opening of Financial Bid (e-mode only): on 13-06-2025 after 11:30:00 hrs or after the finalization of Technical Bid. Details regarding the Work and Tender Document may be obtained through KPP portal **http://www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in.** Any clarification regarding details of the service or any other aspects of the above tender can be had by contacting the office of the District Child Protection Officer, District Child Protection Unit, Chamarajangar during the office hours either in person or over phone No: +91-7204304803.

Sd/- District Child Protection Officer
District Child Protection Unit,
Chamarajanagar

DIPR : CHANAGAR:103:2025-26

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA, DEPARTMENT OF SPACE,
INDIAN SPACE RESEARCH ORGANISATION, Construction & Maintenance Group

ISRO -TELEMETRY TRACKING & COMMAND NETWORK (ISTRAC) Plot No.12 & 13, 3rd Main, 2nd Phase, Peenya Industrial Estate, Bengaluru-560 058, Fax: 080-28094180, Ph:080-28094182, 4542

BRIEF E-TENDER NOTICE

On behalf of President of India, **Item rate E-Tenders** are invited from Contractors of appropriate class for the following works.

NIT No.	**ISTRAC/CMG/E/MAINT/E-TN-25/2025-26/ Dated: 29.05.2025**	**ISTRAC/CMG/E/MAINT/E-TN-26/2025-26/ Dated: 29.05.2025**
Name of work	**Supply, Installation and Commissioning of Distribution Boards, Pump Starters and Water level controller system at IDSN Campus, ISTRAC, Byalalu, Bengaluru.**	**Electrical Works for the renovation of common area lighting, lift room lighting circuits at 1C Block, 2C Block, 3C Block and B-Block at ISRO Housing Colony, RPC Layout & Anthariksh Apartment, Malleshwaram, ISTRAC, Bengaluru.**
Estimated Cost put to Tender	**Rs. 17.21 Lakhs**	**Rs. 14.84 Lakhs**
Tender Document Details	**E-Tender**	**E-Tender**
Period of completion	**03 Months**	**02 Months**
Period during which the tender document can be downloaded	**From 16.00 hrs on 30.05.2025 to 12.06.2025 till 16.00 hrs**	
Bid Clarification	**From 11.00 hrs on 31.05.2025 to 13.06.2025 till 16.00 hrs.**	
Last date of reply to Bid Clarifications	**14.06.2025 up to 16.00 hrs.**	
Last date and time for receipt of tenders	**15.06.2025 up to 16.00 hrs.**	
Due date and time of opening of tenders	**17.06.2025 after 11.00 hrs.**	
Earnest Money Deposit (EMD)	**Rs. 34,420/-**	**Rs. 29,680/-**

Interested tenderers may please refer **Detailed Notice Inviting Tender (NIT)** for eligibility criteria and other details in website **www.isro.gov.in** and download the tender documents from **www.tenderwizard.com/ISRO**

Sd/- Group Head, CMG

KARNATAKA NEERAVARI NIGAM LIMITED
(A Government of Karnataka Enterprise)
OFFICE OF THE, Executive Engineer, KNNL, HBC Divn., Athani – 591304, Tq: Athani. Dist: Belgaum (Karnataka).

No./KNNL/HBC/PB/FIC/TND/2024-25/ 501 **Date: 27.05.2025**

SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION
(Through kpp-portal only)

Percentage tenders are invited as per KW-4 in Two cover system for below mentioned Work on from eligible tenderers, for the works detailed below by the undersigned.

On behalf of the Managing Director, KNNL, Bengaluru, the Executive Engineer, KNNL, HBC Division Athani, invites percentage basis tender from interested, experienced and resourceful civil contractors from KPWD Class II and Above Contractors who fulfill the pre-qualification criteria for the bellow mentioned work.

The two cover bid submission procedure as per Rule 28 of KTPP Act shall be followed The bidders are requested to submit their bids in two cover system including EMD in e-cash. The first cover (Technical Bid) should contain the documents as mentioned in Para 4, The second cover shall contain the financial bid. The cover-I (Technical bid) will be opened first. Thereafter cover-II (financial bid) of only those bidders who have fulfill the conditions contained in Para.4 will be opened.

The blank tender documents can be obtained through website www.kpp-portal karnataka.gov.in and can be submitted through electronic tender only.

The approximate estimated cost of work is 1) Rs. 490.63 Lakhs

1:The contractor can request for KPP-Protal documents:From 30.05.2025 @ 10.30 AM to 06.06.2025 upto 4.00 PM,2:Pre Bid Meeting EE KNNL HBC Division Athani:04.06.2025 upto 4.00 PM,3:Last date & time for tender queries:05.06.2025 upto 4.00 PM,4:Submission of completed document IN KPP-Protal:From 30.05.2025 @ 10.30 AM to 06.06.2025 upto 4.00 PM,5:Opening of Technical Bid at EE KNNL HBC Division Athani: 10.06.2025 @ 11.00 AM,6:Opening of Financial Bid at EE KNNL HBC Division Athani: 12.06.2025 @ 11.00 AM or After approval of Technical Bid,7:Date for producing Original document @ EE KNNL HBC Division Athani: 11.06.2025 @ 11.00 AM.

Any other information can be had from the undersigned during the office hours on telephone: 08289-251034 and H.P company helpline 080-22485867

Sd/-Executive Engineer,
KNNL HBC Division, Athani

DIPR/BGM/RO-NO-350/KSMCA/2025-26

KRISHNA BHAGYA JALA NIGAM LIMITED
(A Government of Karnataka Undertaking)
Office of the Executive Engineer, KBJNL, Dam Division, Almatti-586201. Phone: 08426-281027
E-mail:dam_division@rediffmail.com

No: KBJNL/DDA/EE/PB-2/KWRUR/quotation rates/2025-26/589 Dated:23.05.2025

SHORT TERM QUOTATION

Quotation rates are invited for Non-Schedule of Rates Items "SCADA automation for pipeline network scheme with Solenoid valve, flow control valve, Electro magnetic flow meter, Double eccentric butterfly Valve and Pressure Relief Valve of different diameter varying from 80mm to 2200mm and Design, Supply, installation, testing and Commissioning of Unlimited tags, SCADA run time Licence, SCADA development licenced Software, Console panel, power & Signal Cabling etc.. for SCADA accessories & allied items for Outlet Management System (OMS)" from authorized dealers/ Suppliers/ Service providers for preparation of Estimates for the work of Construction of distribution network/ Piped Distribution network of Kerur LIS Stage-II under UKP Stage-II.

For detailed information regarding the items, can contact the office of the under signed during the office hours. Last date for submission of quotation in sealed envelope or through office e-mail is 04.06.2025 upto 5.00 pm.

Office E-mail Id: dam_division@rediffmail.com

Contact details: Shri Naveen, Assistant Engineer, 9164812675

Sd/- Executive Engineer,
KBJNL, Dam Division, Almatti

ವಾಸಾಸಂಇ/ವಿಜಯಪುರ/98/ಕೆಸ್‌ಎಂಸಿಎ/2025–26

DELHI PHARMACEUTICAL SCIENCES AND RESEARCH UNIVERSITY
(State University of GNCT of Delhi, Established under Act 07 of 2008,GNCTD)
Opposite Sainik Farm Gate - 1
Pushp Vihar, Sector-03, M.B. Road, New Delhi-110017,India

NATIONAL INSTITUTIONAL RANKING FRAMEWORK
Ranking 16

ADMISSIONS NOTIFICATION
(Academic Year 2025-26)

Delhi Pharmaceutical Sciences and Research University (DPSRU) is a premier institute of Govt. of NCT of Delhi offering education in the field of Pharmacy and Allied Health Sciences. DPSRU is the first University of India in Pharmaceutical Education. The University is approved by UGC under section 2f of UGC Act. The Alumni of the University are serving at various high level positions in India and abroad in catering the health care needs.

The admissions for various Under Graduate and Post Graduate programmes for the academic year 2025-26 will be starting from 16th May, 2025 onwards. The Admission Prospectus can be downloaded from the University website (www.dpsru.edu.in). The application process and the submission of the application is online and the admission process is offline. The details regarding last date of application to various the courses and the eligibility criteria are given in the Prospectus.

The various programmes offered by the University are listed as under:

DIPLOMA/ UG PROGRAMS OFFERED IN PHARMACEUTICAL SCIENCES AND ALLIED HEALTH SCIENCES	PG PROGRAMS OFFERED IN PHARMACEUTICAL SCIENCES AND ALLIED HEALTH SCIENCES
• D. Pharm • B. Pharm. • B. Pharm. (Lateral entry) • BPT	• M. Pharm. in Pharmaceutical Chemistry • M. Pharm. in Pharmaceutics • M. Pharm. in Pharmacology • M. Pharm. in Quality Assurance • M. Pharm. in Drug Regulatory Affairs • M. Pharm. in Industrial Pharmacy • M. Pharm. in Pharmaceutical Analysis • M. Pharm. in Pharmaceutical Biotechnology • M. Pharm. in Pharmacognosy & Phytochemistry • MPT (Sports Medicine) • MPT (Cardiovascular and Pulmonary) • MPT (Paediatrics) • MBA-International Trade Management (MBAITM) • MBA-Pharmaceutical Management (MBA-PM) • Masters in Public Health (MPH) • MBA-Healthcare & Hospital Management (MBAHHM) • M. Sc. Artificial Intelligence in Medicine • Executive M. Pharm (Drug Regulatory Science) • M.Sc. Clinical Research
• DMLT • BMLT • BBA (Health Care) • B. Pharm.(Ayurveda) • B.Sc.(Hons.) (Biomedical Science) • B.Sc. (Hons.) (Sports Science) Admission to Diploma/ UG programs will be on merit basis of the qualifying exam	• **Ph.D. Programs offered in: Pharmaceutical Sciences, Pharmaceutical Management, Public Health, Physiotherapy.**
For more information: **Website: www.dpsru.edu.in** **Apply now: https://dpsru.ucanapply.com/** **Email ID: admissions@dpsru.edu.in** **Contact Number: 011-29552039/40, 9211646452**	Admission to PG programs will be through CUET for MBA/GPAT for M.Pharm/ If seats are vacant after 1st round of counselling then admission for 2nd round of counselling for Non GPAT/ Non CUET students will be on the basis of merit of Academic Score.

Scan QR code for applying

S/d
Registrar, DPSRU

DIP/Shabdarth/Classified/0068/25-26

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PERSONAL

CHANGE OF NAME

I, SINIMOL Skaria Sithara, d/o Kottayil Curiakose Skaria, No 63, 2nd Stage, Bank Officers Layout, Thippasandra, Doddakallasandra, Blr–560062. Have Changed My Name To Sinimol Skariah Sithara. Vide Affidavit On 27/05/25.

I, VIRESH S ADEPPA, S/o. Sooryakant, R/at # 6/63, Adeppa Nagar, Bidar, Karnataka 535415 have changed my name from VIRESH to VIRESH S ADEPPA for all my future purposes by affidavit 28–05–2025 sworn before notary B.Seshagiri.

I , Santhosh Kumar , holder of PP no Z3418595 & r/o B13, sycamore, tata sherwood, Basavanagar, Blr – 560037 have changed my name to santhosh kumar nair and will be known in this name for all future purposes.

I, Hitherto Known as Shamithul Kumar Gulecha Alias Sha Mithul Kumar Alias Mithul Kumar S/O Vijay Kumar Residing at No 18 2nd Floor, Sunkalpet, Bangalore, Cubbanpet, Bangalore City, Bangalore North, Bengaluru, Karnataka 560002, Have Changed My Name and Shall Hereafter be known as Manvik Gulechaa for All Future Purpose.

I, Saurabh Pant S/O Basant Ballabh Pant R/O Em-04, Gopalan Habitat Splendor, Itpl Road, Kundalahalli, Bengaluru, Karnataka 560037, Have Changed the Name of My Minor Son Namely Ikansh Pant (Aged 05 Years 05 Months) And He Shall Hereafter Be Known as Ekansh S Pant for All Future Purposes

LOST & FOUND

NOTICE: I, EARNEST SAMUEL JAYARAJ G have lost my original ICSE marks sheet issued by the council for the Indian School Certificate Examinations New Delhi bearing INDEX NO T/236/067, YEAR OF PASSING 1996 /S.D.A ENGLISH HIGH SCHOOL, BANGALORE / No 3157109 If found pls contact 8197645073

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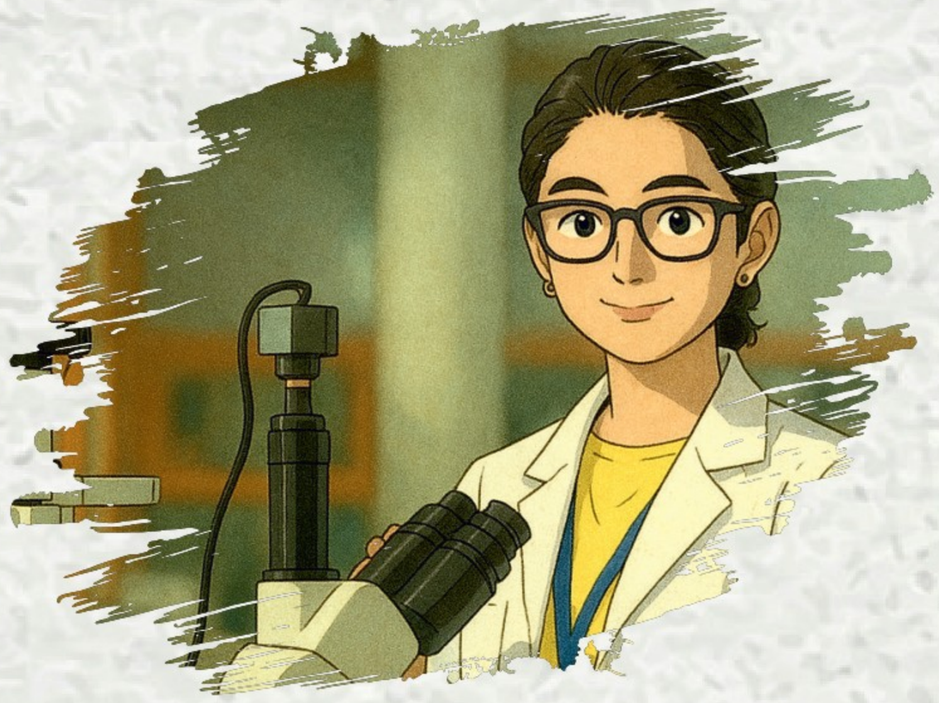

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